COMMEMORATOR

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Clinton Critics Organize Against Clinton's 'Mismanaged Unhealthy Uncaring' Plan

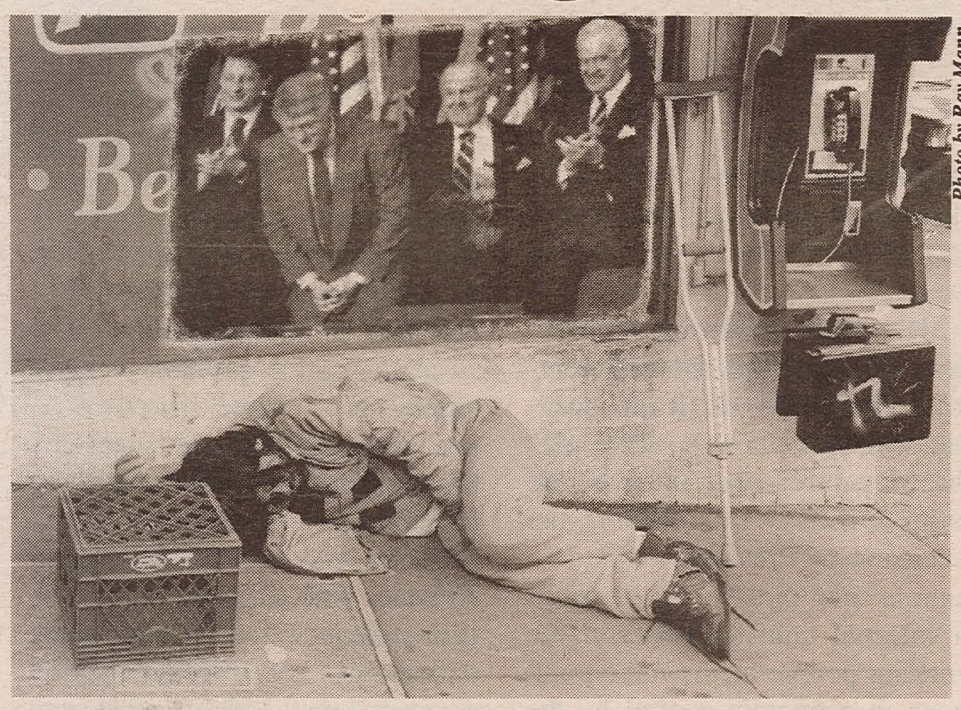

Photo by Ray Mann

A photographer's concept of how the Clinton health plan looks from the streets.

A groundswell of opposition has arisen to federal and state proposals to institute managed care throughout the nation within both the public and private sectors, with organizations forming to fight for comprehensive health care for all, and to call for the resignation of Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services of the Clinton administration.

Across the nation, grass-roots organizations of the poor and oppressed, mostly minorities, are protesting the unconstitutional restructuring of the Medicaid and Medicare programs taking place. In November alone, dozens of protests were staged to take issue with states' applications for administrative waivers for managed care and their quick approval by the federal bureaucracy under Clinton and Shalala. Shalala holds a key position responsible for implementing these initiatives without any voter approval or representative mandate of any kind.

Aimed at lowering government health care expenditures in the long run, these initiatives, according to ad hoc National Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals representative Sagie Govender, will prove to be the largest single taxpayer rip-off in the history of the nation, larger even than the savings and loan scandal of the 1980s, and will enrich insurance companies and other large corporations at the expense of taxpayers and the poor, destroying the private medical practitioner system as we know it today, and changing forever the relationship between patient and physician.

Single-payer Health Care Systems

One thing is clear: Whatever law is finally proposed, in the course of the abuse of Constitutional process now going on across the nation, it will eventually win, with the major

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Williams' Sentencing a Political Time Bomb

In the face of extensive institutional attempts through the course of the Rodney King and Reginald Denny beating cases to arrive at compromise prosecutions to alter the perception of Americans that their enforcement and justice systems are racist, classist, and unjust, what were posed as comparable cases had widely disparate results. In Los Angeles December 7, Damian Williams was sentenced to 10 years in prison, the maximum penalty allowed by law, by Superior Court Judge John W. Ouderkirk, who characterized as "exceptionally violent" the actions of Williams after four police officers were acquitted in state court on April 29, 1992 of the beating of Rodney King.

Judge Ouderkirk, who played the now famous videotapes of Williams' attacks prior to imposing sentence, opined that it is "intolerable in this society to attack or maim people because of their race."

To those who believe this is over and the attention of American citizens can now begin to focus on social and economic issues underlying the country's divisions and violence, important differences in the two trials show that a political time bomb is still ticking.

Damian Williams has spent over two years in jail. His public apology, truck driver Reginald Denny's open support for lenient sentencing, Williams' admission that his actions and those of others were "unjustified even though it was in the heat of the moment" and that "being in jail [had] caused [him] to mature a lot," were all set aside by Judge Ouderkirk who cited "lack of remorse" in imposing the maximum sentence.

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Kaiser "Gateway" Project Could Give the Gate to Nurses

By Sowande Akintunde, Special to the *Commemorator*

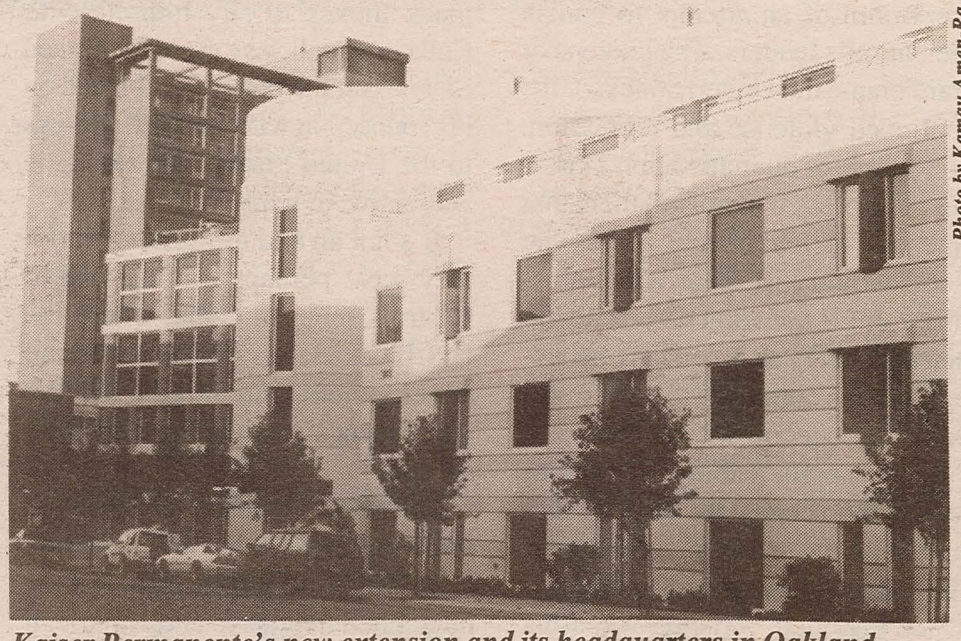

Photo by Kamau Amen-Ra

Kaiser Permanente's new extension and its headquarters in Oakland, California.

Just as leaves falling from the branches of old tired trees signals the advent of winter's frost upon land, so too does rhetoric dribbling from the lips of bureaucrats signal impending frost in the workplace.

To wit: the *Commemorator* has received documentation proclaiming that a major "restructuring" of the giant Kaiser Permanente hospital system is planned to take place within the next two years. The documents are typical of today's information-happy business model — full of swoopy "ain't-we-clever" graphs and charts and the repetitive euphemisms that pass for Business-speak: words and phrases such as "reorganize" (meaning cut back), "improve our cost structure" (drop some salaries), "create partner-

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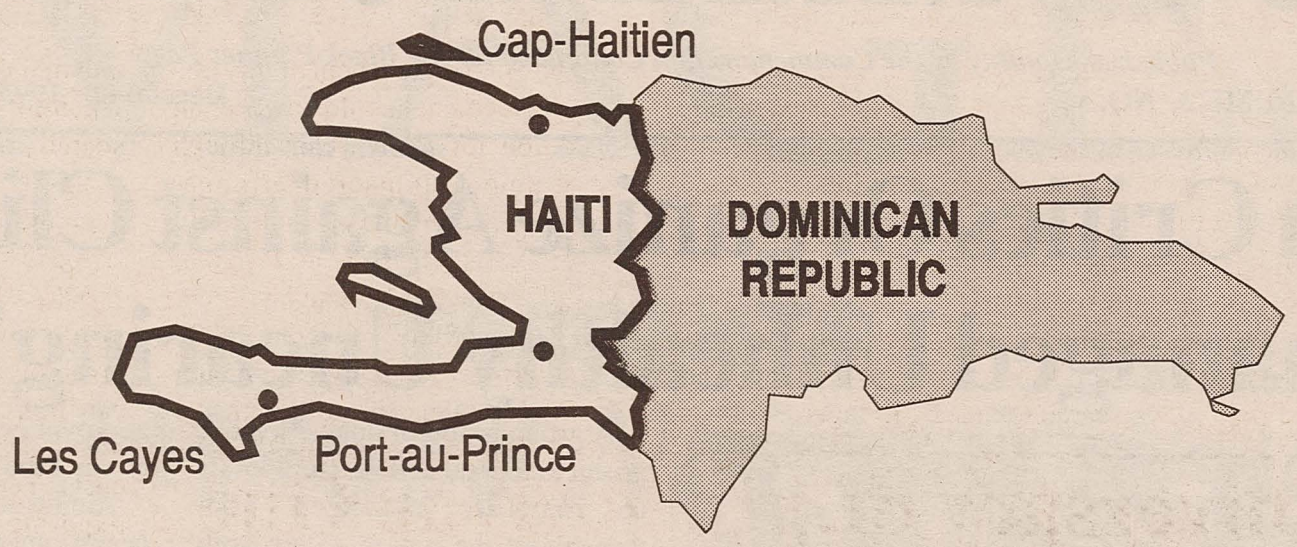
EDITORIAL

Haiti: Rhetoric, Reaction, Repression



The fighting rages still in Panama. The American public is uninformed and seems unaware. Each new atrocity involving U.S. intervention in the domestic affairs of a sovereign nation is reported separately, *sans context*, *sans* connection — the material manifestation of a silent war waged by a secret government whose grand strategy stands undisclosed and outside the purview of public debate or constitutional control. Beneath the shifting sands of the manifold tactical efforts to maintain control of the world economy, victims lie unidentified and uncounted. But their numbers grow with each passing day.

Haiti suffers under economic sanctions imposed at the behest of the U.S. Its poor are starving, its business community struggling with an artificial inflation born of accompanying shortages in foreign exchange and materials needed for industry; gasoline sells upwards of $20.00 per gallon from the neighboring Dominican Republic. Its refugees are batted from international pillar to post while the illegal drug trade thrives as the only chance for most to accumulate wealth. Soldiers, who, more often than not, are the purveyors of the very substances U.S. intervention has sought to drive away, are more and more the only people seen on the streets of the cities whose commerce has become the victim of an attempt to punish the nation's leaders. The citizens of Haiti blame the United States for the continued violence and repression. The people of our nation don't know this. The press will not tell them that nine out of ten people across the world would kill them without asking a single question based only on their nationality as Americans, believing, perhaps correctly, that the world would be better off without them.

The generals leading Haiti from behind the scenes are now in disfavor with the secret government of the United States, which, having unseated President Aristide when his politics were too left-wing for their tastes, are promoting him, at least for the moment. Just like President Noriega of Panama, they stand accused of lining their pockets with ill-gotten gains derived through the drug trades from CIA seed money, designed to build an intelligence community and national police force capable of sufficient terror to suppress the popular will toward more progressive economic policy, while negotiations and propaganda aimed at positioning elected President Aristide toward a more tractable line continue.

Noriega, too, was a CIA agent placed in power for the purpose of oppressing the population of his nation, and preventing the expression of the popular will, while facilitating the exploitation of the land by those with monopolies in hand. He, too, was a political casualty, after he made moves to ally himself with Cuba in its policies toward the United States. But the blame was placed on his connection with the flow of drugs to the United States, something he was active in while with the CIA.

This is the same government which under the newly announced Giuliani plan in New York, refuses to go after any of the big fish, but will concentrates on sweeping up the guppies, yuppies, hippies and buppies; thereby driving up the price on the street...

It's not an end to the drug traffic they seek; perhaps it is the end to Castro's reign in Cuba, where the U.S. blockade has stunted economic development and threatened the government's survival for over three decades.

Full-scale invasion of Panama, throwing caution to the Caribbean trade winds in the face of previously negotiated treaties to end American domination of the Canal Zone it created out of Colombian territory for the purpose almost a century ago, was admitted to have no connection to the volume of drug traffic coming into this nation, from the day it took place. George Bush himself admitted that the arrest and imprisonment of General Noriega, not yet then effected, would not dampen the importation of illegal drugs because the center of commerce had already moved itself from Panama to Ecuador. No attempt at follow-up in Ecuador took place.

Meanwhile, reports from Haiti have indicated that the oligarchically inclined military commanders of the country have purchased control over most of the major utilities. This renders the ascension of President Aristide a tenuous step most likely to result in internal conflict between the working people of the nation and those in economic control by the grace of secret American aid, given at a time when the Congress had placed a hold on appropriations, much in the manner of the Contras in Nicaragua.

Whatever the result,the truth will never be told in the standard media or government reports within the United States,and the covert tinkering with Caribbean government by this nation will continue destabilizing any government with the internal fiber to chart its own economic course. It will promote the drug trade in each nation in its turn, since American banks, shippers, importers, transporters, etc, have long since become reliant on the income produced, a fact well known to the government. This is the same government which under the newly announced Giuliani plan in New York, refuses to go after any of the big fish, but will concentrates on sweeping up the guppies, yuppies, hippies and buppies; thereby driving up the price on the street and bringing more of the urban unemployed into the business.

Those who now champion Mr. Aristide, who urge an end to the deprivations of human rights while the masses starve, would be well advised to read a bit more between the lines and exercise a bit more sophistication in their consideration of the effect of U.S. policy on the island nations of the Caribbean. It is after all, jst an extension of the process by which America itself is being reorganized; and to change the one we will need to change the other.

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NAFTA–Bad News on Either Side of the Border for Workers

"The North American Free Trade Agreement is being promoted as a new idea to revitalize the economy and create jobs," noted Willie Lee Bell, retired member of IAM & AW. "It's a lie that has led the population to think a boom is around the corner. The truth of the matter is that most of today's Americans are misled about how NAFTA will work."

NAFTA cancels out jobs, mostly in the Southwest, jobs in which most of the people concerned have nothing to do with one another, no association, no unions. Some of them work part-time; some work in factories with hundreds of employees, but they eventually move on to somewhere else in their constant search to make a living.

Almost every element of this free trade agreement has already been in operation for many years through government-sponsored arrangements with business, especially agribusiness. The Bracero Program of 1942 brought Mexican labor into the United States. Over 200,000 farm workers suddenly became not only jobless but "illegal" with the halt of the Bracero Program in 1965. Unemployment along the border soared to over 50 percent. Wage scales for agricultural work have been falling in the United States for five decades.

NAFTA promises to bring more profits into the United States at the level of those entrepreneurs who can more easily make use of the lowered wage scales and overhead costs. Years ago laws were enacted requiring that minority bids or bids from companies hiring minorities be given a certain part of federal contracts — obligations taken so that all contracts would not be handed over to a major supporter. Now that money will go to the insiders, this time operating in Mexico where employees will earn about 58 cents an hour.

The idea of NAFTA is a trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. Low-paying jobs will be exported from the United States, jobs that here pay a minimum wage of no more than $4.50.

A full 70 percent of Mexico's imports come from the United States and these generally sell at U.S. prices. The profits end up inside the United States; and if Mexico were able, with its lower wage scale, to export a product with the profit in it at that level (e.g., produced with lower labor costs), the prices on these Mexican goods would be cheaper, and ever so much more profit than from the current 70 percent of today's Mexican foreign purchases from the United States would reflect upon the U.S. companies that were offered the opportunity to export the employment and then import the peaceful and quiet enjoyment of the products they would purchase. Now that those items will be produced in Mexico and consumed domestically, they'll be freeing up money that now lies in the hands of isolated portions of the Mexican working class who, as far as taxes go, generally receive it back at the end of the year. The taxes that

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75th Anniversary of World War One Armistice Passes in Near-Silence

The 75th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War One, "The war to end all wars," was marked without fanfare, without parade, without the usual tribute and historic explanation — as the United States continued to position itself closer to direct intervention in the civil war raging in the Balkan Peninsula. President Clinton has announced his intention to direct the political solution: spontaneous privatization of formerly socialist nations in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The established press has seemed less than enthusiastic in furnishing a genuine education on the history of American involvement in international conflagrations, and in the Balkan region.

Where such a commemoration would ordinarily be accompanied by much news media attention, the press appeared concerned that an in-depth look at the cause and effect of the armistice, in specific, and the war, in general, might put a damper on the morale of the United States Armed Forces, even though the existence of that volunteer force and the poor minorities in it has more to do with the lack of good- paying jobs within the United States for those among the last hired and first fired, than any other cause.

The First World War, which represented overdetermination of the competition of major industrial powers for cheap, colonial sources of raw materials and labor, was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria by Serbian nationalists in 1914. Major powers in the region fought over the Balkan Peninsula which includes the modern nations of Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania. Almost overnight, Europe was engulfed in a war of attrition which led to the death and disability of millions and affected over 165 million people.

United States involvement began after President Wilson was re-elected on an anti-war platform with the active assistance of the Socialist Party who threw their voting blocs from Eugene V. Debs, who had polled millions in 1912, to the incumbent in order to defeat Charles Evans Hughes who favored entering the hostilities. United States corporations had made tens of millions of dollars selling fuel, munitions and manufactured goods to both sides, without building or maintaining a standing army of its own.

Since the United States companies traded mostly with French and British firms, the Morgan Bank approached Wilson with its concern that if the Germans should prevail, it would lose over $60 billion and America would be plunged into a devastating depression. Wilson entered the war six weeks later "to make the world safe for democracy." In the bloodbath that followed, newly devised methods of warfare including mustard gas and other poisons, were unleashed on the unsuspecting troops, while leaders like Debs who advocated resistance to the draft, were thrown into prison.

The American presence was decisive and proved to Germany its inability to prevail in the war, even though its army was never beaten in the field and the entire war was fought on French soil. A cease-fire was arranged which took effect on the 11th minute of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. What followed after the conference in Versailles was a treaty which devastated the German economy. Although they had not lost the war, they lost the peace.

The German nation suffered an entire decade of economic failure and unprecedented inflation, until the world was overtaken by the great depression's lack of consumer spending power.

The Germans were made to pay reparations and give up their prime industrial territory to finance the Allied recovery. Restrictions on military production were imposed, supposedly to secure the future peace and stability of Europe; but with the lack of consumer dollars within the American and European economies, a second conflict arose which left the United States the greatest economic power and the largest creditor that the world has ever seen, with the bulk of the slaughter taking place on the Eastern Front in Russia. Those who stood to gain from international war sought to remove all memories of World War One from the mind of the American soldier.

In 1954 Armistice Day became Veterans Day as the horrors of modern warfare were hidden from the American people until the Vietnam war reached their dinner table by television. It was not until 1971 that Vice-President Agnew informed the press that they would lose advertising revenues if they did not use their media to further the war effort, to seek appeals to the feelings of patriotism, with the domestic

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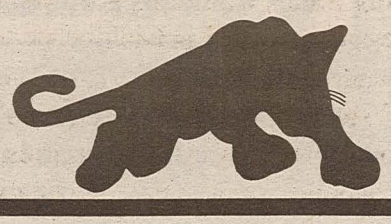


Continuation From Last Issue

When Justice is Incidental

By Verin Lewis

Hampton was targeted by the FBI, because of his leadership role in the NAACP and his activities in SNCC.

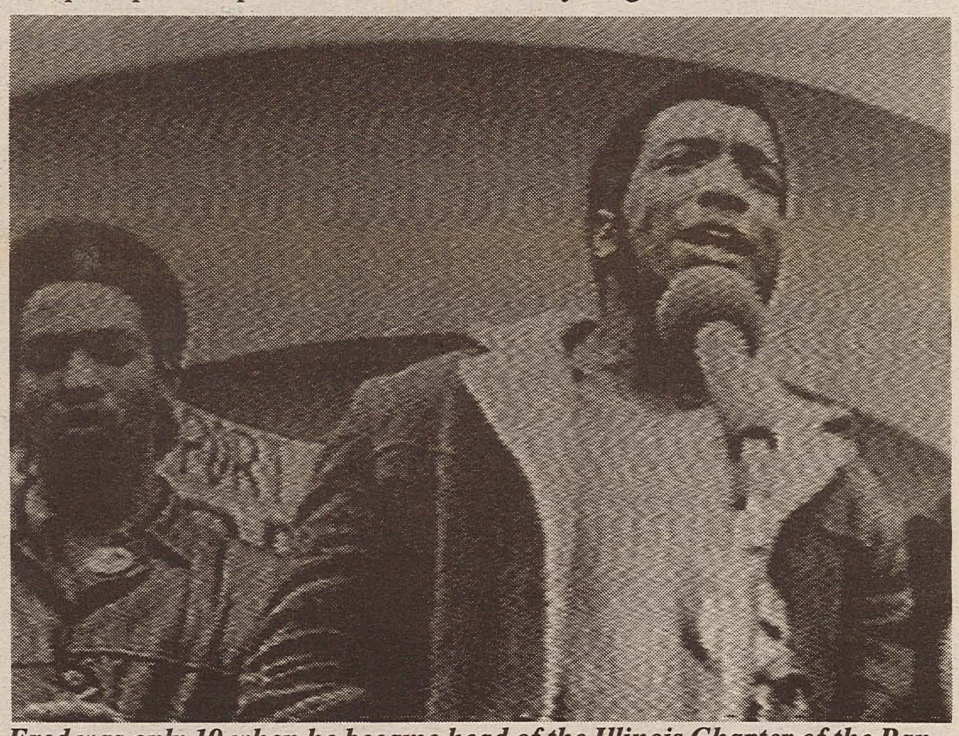
"Fred was only 19 when he became head of the Illinois Chapter of the Panthers. He was an extraordinary leader — a brilliant and charismatic speaker — with an exceptional ability to deal with people and inspire confidence. His energy led the Chicago chapter of the Panthers to be one of the most effective. Five different breakfast programs were begun on Chicago's West Side, and a free medical center was begun in the neighborhood which had an infant mortality rate more than twice that of White Chicago. Under his direction, the Party began a door-to-door program of health care which included testing for sickle cell anemia and a blood drive for Cook County Hospital, which served much of the black community. During the winter, the Party organized an emergency heat program which kept pressure on the landlords to repair furnaces and boilers. The community was beginning to deal with its problems and an atmosphere of optimism and commitment was growing. He was relentless; he could be found bustling around Panther headquarters, or out in the streets talking to and organizing people, or at one of an increasing number of speaking engagements throughout the Midwest. By the summer of 1969, he was talking to thousands of people in the course of a month. He was becoming a national figure, both inside and outside the Party, and it was being suggested that he be brought into the national Black Panther Party leadership." —Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party.

Fred Hampton had grown up in Maywood, Illinois where he attended Proviso East High School. At 14, Fred Hampton organized a 700 member chapter of the NAACP in Maywood. He organized a march to the Maywood Town Hall that lead to the building of a municipal swimming pool. Police brutality was an injustice that drew Fred's focus, and he spoke out against this abuse of power often. Fred's involvement in the civil rights movement demonstrated his exceptional leadership capacities. By taking a leadership role in the African-American liberation movements, such as SNCC and the civil rights movement, Fred Hampton could not escape the attention of the FBI. As early as 1967, the FBI began in earnest to keep track of Fred's activities.

"Already in late 1967, the Bureau's Chicago SAC (Special Agent In Charge) Marlin Johnson, had instructed his Racial Matters Squad to open a file on the nineteen-year-old, a manila folder, which was expanded to twelve volumes and contained more that 4,000 pages. At the same time, an informant was placed in the Maywood NAACP office." *[This and the following quotes, unless otherwise specified, are from* Agents of Repression *by Ward Churchill and Jim Vander Wall, Southend Press, Boston, Mass., (1988)].*

Even before Hampton had joined the Black Panther Party, he came under intrusive investigations of one of the FBI's domestic counterintelligence programs which was designated by the Bureau as a COINTELPRO operation. Even before Hoover had issued his directive defining a much more complete plan "to prevent the rise of a messiah who could unify and electrify the militant Black Nationalist movement," an earlier FBI directive issued sometime in August 1967 sent to field offices across the country called for FBI agents to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit and otherwise neutralize" African-American leaders and the organizations they headed. It was under this directive that Fred Hampton was targeted by the FBI, because of his leadership role in the NAACP and his activities in SNCC.

Once Fred Hampton "assumed the Illinois state Black Panther Party Chairmanship, a matter which automatically rendered him a national Black Panther Party Deputy Chairman, and as Panther leadership across the country began to be decimated by the impact of COINTELPRO, Hampton's prominence in the national hierarchy increased rapidly and dramatically." With his ascent to the leadership of the Black Panther Party the FBI increased its surveillance of Fred Hampton.



Fred was only 19 when he became head of the Illinois Chapter of the Panthers. He was an extraordinary leader — a brilliant and charismatic speaker.

At least as early as February 1968, Johnson (Special Agent In Charge, Chicago Bureau) also requested the installation of a wiretap on the phone of Hampton's mother, Iberia. By May, Johnson had placed the young Panther's name on the 'Agitator Index' and saw to it that he was designated as a "key militant leader" for Bureau reporting purposes. In late 1968, Special Agent (SA) Roy Mitchell was assigned to augment the Chicago field office's Racial Matters Squad, headed by SA Robert Piper. One of Mitchell's first acts in his new job was to bring in a individual named William O'Neal, recently arrested twice, in one oc-

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Oil, Strategic Assets, Islam and Blood

By Comrade Muslim Ibn Al-Haqq

This is the continuation of The Great Sataan *published in our March 1993 issue.*

In recent years, "The Great Sataan," as Iran calls the U.S., has played a vanguard role as global fascism's political-military head by exploiting pan-Islam, especially when disguised as national liberation struggles, in order to hold and advance its position in the world economy.

A prime example of the execution of this strategy is Afghanistan, which is, according to Arab, Western European and U.S. intelligence sources, a training center from which Islamic fundamentalist revolutionary extremists are dispatched on world-wide missions to topple targeted Arab and other governments.

Given the large concentration of Muslims and Islam within the USSR, it was to be expected that pan-Islamic nationalism and fundamentalism would in large part determine the new economic, social and political map that would emerge from the Soviet Union's disintegration; and the Great Sataan continues to exploit new opportunities to portray itself as an ally of Muslim-based, so-called national liberation struggles under the pretense of supporting "human rights" and "democratic ideals" from Afghanistan to Bosnia.

Iran, the current axis of pan-Islamic fundamentalist revolution, is geographically situated in proximity to former Soviet central republics that underwent or are undergoing Muslim-based armed insurgency — for example, in Azerbaijan, currently in civil war with neighboring Armenia, and the civil war in Georgia. Iran would potentially be a prime beneficiary should pan-Islamic revolution prevail in the region.

The Afghanistan Connection

Thousands of veterans of the Afghanistan war, which pitted the Mujahedeen and its sponsors against the Soviet Union, are currently at the center of armed clandestine movements to topple the governments of Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Jordan, Turkey and other predominantly Muslim states and regions, according to Western and Arab diplomats.

Experts such as Barnett R. Rubin, Columbia University Associate Professor of political science and specialist on Afghanistan, and Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Iryani, Yemen's foreign minister, point to the Afghanistan war as a seminal event leading to the post-war infusion of lethal weaponry and trained armed combatants into some of the most unstable areas of the world. Dr. Al-Iryani states that the fight in Afghanistan ignited many poor young men and provided fertile ground for the rapid growth of extremism in Afghanistan. Yemen and other world hot spots were "political Islam" in the cutting edge of the movement to topple governments.

The Mujahedeen is also one early traceable link connecting blind Muslim cleric Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman and alleged World Trade Center bomber Mahmud Abohalima with the CIA. Afghan rebels were supported by Sheik Rahman, his followers, the United States and the CIA, and Saudi Arabia. Sheik Rahman recruited young Egyptians and raised money for Afghan insurgents. He spent time at Mujahedeen command, control and training bases in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1988 and 1990. Mahmud Abohalima spent periods of up to several months as a combatant in Afghanistan. The CIA played a major role in that war, and the U.S. and Saudi Arabia covertly supplied at least $3.3 billion each to the Afghan Mujahedeen during the period of Sheik Rahman and his followers' involvement.

Sheik Rahman's followers, including the accused assassin of Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat,

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Pre-Gulf War Soviet Bloc and OPEC Increases In Oil Production Far Ahead of U.S.

The following economic-military considerations helped bring on the Gulf War.

In 1960, world crude oil production totalled 20.96 million barrels per day (BPD). OPEC produced 8.7 million BPD, 41 percent, the U.S. 7.04 million BPD, 33.6 percent and the Soviet bloc 2.91 million BPD, 13.9 percent. By 1990 world crude oil production totalled 60.07 million BPD. This amounted to a net crude oil production increase of 186.6 percent over 30 years.

OPEC by 1990 was producing 23.69 million BPD. This amounted to 39.4 percent of world crude oil production and a 172.3 percent net increase in OPEC crude oil production over the same 30-year period. The Soviet bloc produced 11.68 million BPD, representing 19 percent of the world's 1990 crude oil production. More important, the Soviet bloc's 11.68 million BPD in 1990 represents a 301.4 percent net increase in its crude oil productive capacity over 30 years.

U.S. 1990 crude oil production equalled 7.3 million BPD. This figure, however, represents a meager 3.7 percent net increase in crude oil production over 30 years. Pre-Gulf War Soviet bloc and OPEC crude oil production net increases between 1969 and 1990 grew at a phenomenally greater rate than the U.S.

U.S. Increasingly Dependent on Pre-Gulf War Mid-East Oil

In 1990 crude oil accounted for 90 percent of U.S. energy imports — 12.429 quadrillion British Thermal Units out of 13.829 BTUs. In 1973, crude oil furnished only 54.3 percent of U.S. energy imports; the recent figure of 90 percent shows a dramatic rise over the 17 years. Total energy imports rose only 9.1 percent.

In 1990, U.S. daily petroleum imports mounted to 7.09 million BPD, of which 60.1 percent or 4.264 million BPD were imported from OPEC, with OPEC being responsible for 2.320 million BPD, 54.4 percent of all OPEC 1990 petroleum exports and one-third of all U.S. petroleum imports.

In sum, prior to the Gulf War, the U.S. had become increasingly dependent on Middle East, OPEC and Arab OPEC imported petroleum.

Modern armies travel on oil as well as their stomachs. Without oil, modern mechanized land, naval and air forces, as well as industry, would grind to a screeching halt. The main concern of all military strategy is maintaining and increasing the ability to wage war, while decreasing and destroying an enemy's ability to wage war. This depends in significant part on controlling access to adequate oil reserves and denying it to the enemy.

U.S. strategic oil reserves were approximately 26.5 billion barrels in 1990, between 2.8 and 2.6 percent of the world's strategic oil reserves of between 933.2 and 1002.2 billion barrels. NATO and SEATO, the United States' primary military allies, had strategic oil reserves of between 106.4 and 111.6 billion barrels, between 11.1 and 11.4 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves.

OPEC, on the other hand, owned between 693.5 and 779.1 billion barrels of oil, between 74.3 and 77.7 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves. The Arab grouping in OPEC owned between 546.9 and 595.5 billion barrels of oil, between 76.4 and 78.9 percent of OPEC's and between 59.1 and 59.4 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves. The Middle East contained between 592.5 and 660.2 billion barrels of oil, amounting to between 63.5 and 65.9 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves. The Arab League owned between 555.5 and 606.2 billion barrels of oil or between 59.5 and 60.5 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves.

At that time, the Soviet bloc, the Middle East and Africa controlled roughly the same amount of strategic oil reserves, the Soviet bloc controlling between 59.6 and 60.1 billion barrels comprising between 6.0 and 6.4 percent of 1990 world strategic oil reserves. The Middle East and Africa controlled 58.8 to 60.8 billion barrels or 6.0 to 6.3 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves, and China between 21.5 and 24.0 billion barrels or between 2.3 and 2.4 percent of the world's 1990 strategic oil reserves.

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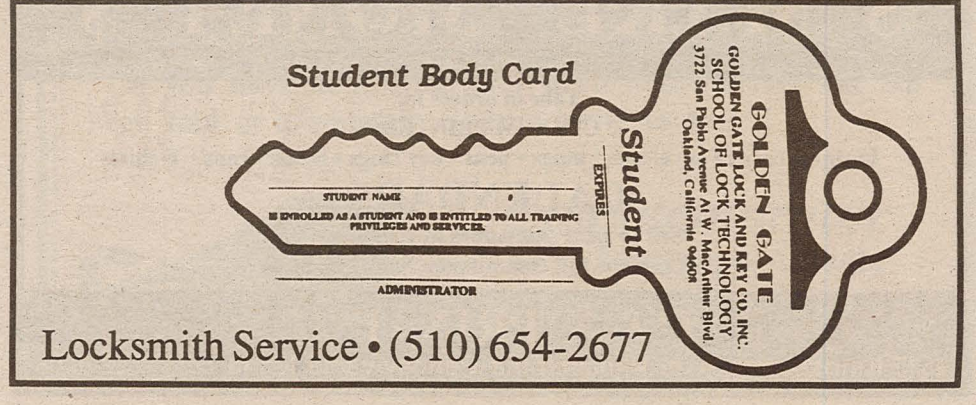
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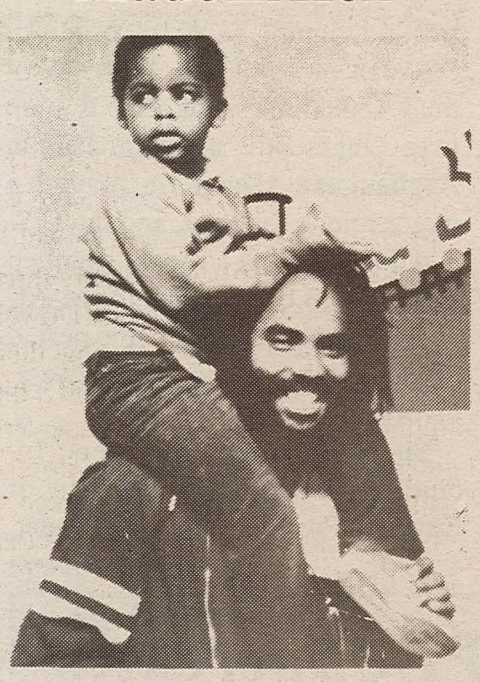
NAFTA—A Pact Made In Hell



by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Much has been said and written on NAFTA — The North American Free Trade Agreement.

NAFTA was sold as the "be-all," "end-all" — a solution to the increasing cycles of bad economic times.

Economics — an intimidating, confounding science if ever there was one — does follow certain principles, among them that capital follows the profit margin — always. Always.

The NAFTA-backers claim the pact will provide many new jobs because of new opportunities to sell goods in Mexico.

There may be jobs, but they will pay a bare pittance, and the businesses that remain behind will bludgeon their workers with the threat of relocation to the low-paying vistas south of the border. Indeed, it is already happening.

Capital's trek to below the Rio Grande has created an ocean of *maquiladores* hugging the U.S. border, where goods are produced by Mexican workers paid the barest peso, only to be shipped north for sale to Norteamericanos at "regular" prices, meaning, ultimately, a bigger margin of profit for the manufacturer, with less for laborers.

NAFTA means an intensification of this trend.

NAFTA means lower wages for workers.

NAFTA is a political creation of U.S. and multinational capital and thus designed to provide corporate interests with a larger pool for production (which Mexico obviously offers) with lower wages (ditto), and also with dramatically lessened environmental regulations.

Think of it this way: If you were a business producing widgets, and had an opportunity to produce them by non-union, bargain-basement-low paid workers, with no social security, no worker's comp, no OSHA (such as it is), no EPA (such as it is), and still could sell your widgets at the same or even higher prices — would you do it?

That's the question pondered by many a manager, board member and director of U.S. business today, and in the harsh world of the economy, it is a force greater to capital than gravity itself.

NAFTA pulls the plug out of the tub, and quickens the economic whoosh down the drain for U.S. labor. To be sure, maquiladores represent substantial investments and job opportunities for Mexican workers, who are quite willing to work for meager (by U.S. standards) wages provided by U.S. business, but Mexico's gain will mean U.S. losses.

Consider any politician's stand on NAFTA and you will know whether he supports the rights of those who labor, or of those who boss (and profit from) labor.

Kudos For Fidel

Cuba, from the Indian name Cubanacan, has been a home for African rebellion since 1533, when a significant Black slave revolt shook the Caribbean isle.

In 1844, a great Afro-Cuban poet, Placido, took part in a slave revolt and was later executed.

By royal decree, at least, slavery was abolished in Cuba in 1880, and a *patronato* system, under which slaves remained under the "protection" of their former masters for a period of time, was instituted.

That seminal urge for liberation has pulsed and throbbed in Cuban veins for centuries — freedom from slavery; freedom from serfdom; freedom from grinding poverty, illiteracy and foreign domination by rich *norteamericanos.*

It was from this fundamental urge that a young law student, Fidel Castro-Ruz, organized armed resistance to the Batista regime, and began the Cuban Revolution in the late 1950s.

Before 1959 American companies controlled 80 to 100 percent of Cuban utilities, mines, cattle ranches and oil refineries, 40 percent of the sugar industry, and 50 percent of the public railways.

That began to change when the American-backed Batista government fell on New Year's Day, 1959.

"No state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state."

Cuba was known as the whorehouse of the Caribbean, and the vacation spot of choice for U.S. gangsters.

The Revolution changed all that.

Under an independent government for the first time in centuries, Cuba began addressing social needs of its own people, literacy, education, health and agriculture.

When Cuba nationalized foreign industries the U.S. government retaliated by launching the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion (trained and armed by the CIA), numerous assassination attempts at killing Castro, and a trade embargo that left the nation of the brink of penury.

Note well that, in addition to being acts of war, each of these impositions constitute clear violations of the OAS (Organization of American States) treaty, to which the U.S. is a signatory, which reads, in part: "No state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state."

For over 30 years, the U.S. embargo against Cuba was designed to strangle the newly independent nation, using the stigma of "communism" to justify crimes against them.

In late 1992, in one of ex-President Bush's last acts, the Torricelli Bill was signed into "law," designed to challenge any nation that trades with Cuba with a withdrawal of U.S. aid, thus making hard times in Cuba harder.

Despite the acts of terrorist and economic aggression against Cuba, it has the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America, the highest literacy rate (96 percent), and universal free education. Here doctors serve patients all around the world, more than the WHO (World Health Organization).

Cuba has consistently been a haven for freedom fighters from around the world, especially Black Americans and Puerto Ricans.

Prof. Robert Williams, former Panthers Eldridge Cleaver, Dr. Huey Newton, and BLA soldier Assata Shakur, and Nehanda Abiodun (NAWO activist) found refuge from imperialist repression on Cuban shores. Puertoriqueno Independentista Guillermo Morales also found safe haven there.

Cuba sent over 20,000 of her sons and daughters to fight for African Liberation in Angola, Southern Africa, fighting the Boer racists with guns, tanks and planes.

It was in Angola, at Cuito Carnivale, that Cuban military might stopped South African aggression, opening the door to freedom for Dr. Nelson Mandela, and making a Black government there possible.

It is our duty to do all we can to support the courageous people of Cuba and their Revolution before this government has its way and turns it back into the whorehouse of the Caribbean.

"Democratic" Dictator

The Russian White House, once home to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, may best be called the Black House. The facade of dark soot that now covers the building is the result of hours of bombardment by tanks under orders of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In the most ferocious rebellion since the October 1917 Revolution, forces loyal to the People's Deputies Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoi and Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov struck out at the state and government media represented by President Yeltsin on October 3, 1993.

Yeltsin's banning of Parliament violated the Russian Constitution and was thus illegal.

Well-organized units of rebels hit crucial TV broadcast centers, the Moscow Mayor's office and related targets after Yeltsin banned the Russian Congress and surrounded the Parliament building with troops and barbed wire.

Yeltsin's banning of Parliament violated the Russian Constitution and was thus illegal.

Imagine an American lawyer and constitutional scholar applauding the banning and lauding Yeltsin's admittedly unlawful act! That lawyer and that scholar was U.S. President Wm. J. Clinton, Esquire. The U.S. and other "GATT 7" capitalist powers (the seven largest capitalist nations that are leading the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks) have unanimously applauded and supported Yeltsin's banning of Parliament as well as his armed strike at Parliamentary rebels, regardless of constitutionality, praising him as a "democrat."

Continued on page 16

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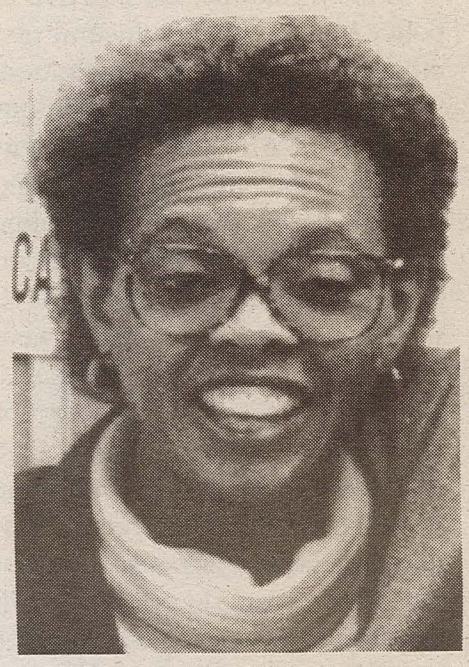
Hoover Begins Infiltration Program

By JoNina Abron



Unlike the Mulford bill, other attacks on the Party were neither so overt or legal. *War Against the Panthers: A Study of Repression in America*, Huey's 1980 doctoral dissertation at the University of California Santa Cruz, is a detailed account of the government's harassment of the BPP — which was dominated by the FBI Counterintelligence Program COINTELPRO. On August 25, 1967, FBI records show, the FBI launched a violent and illegal program to destroy the black liberation movement in America. In a memo, Hoover ordered 41 FBI field offices to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, or otherwise neutralize and discredit the activities of black nationalist...hate-type organizations and groupings, their leadership, spokesmen, memberships and supporters."

Initial groups targeted were the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a civil rights group that played a key role in the southern black voter registration drives of the early 1960's; Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); Nation of Islam, and the Revolutionary Action Movement. The BPP was added to the list in September 1968.

At Hoover's direction, FBI agents across the country planted spies and informants in the BPP and other black radical/civil rights groups in the sixties and seventies to destroy them from within. COINTELPRO was also used against white, Native American, Chicano, and Asian left-wing groups during this period.

COINTELPRO operations against BPP were numerous and vicious, and included:

- Hundreds of false arrests: From January 1, 1968, to December 31, 1969, 739 BPP members were arrested, an average of more than one a day, with close to $5 million spent on bail;
- Sending to churches whose facilities the party had used (for the Free Breakfast for School Children Program) anonymous letters falsely accusing Panthers of teaching black children to hate whites; and
- Securing respected establishment journalists to write negative articles about the BPP.

By July 1969, the BPP was the primary target of the "Black Nationalist" COINTELPRO. Ultimately, 233 of the total 295 authorized "Black Nationalist" actions had been carried out against the BPP. At least 28 Panthers were killed as a result.

The worst of the COINTELPRO activities against the party was to plant undercover informants, usually black, in party affiliates. A paid FBI informant in Chicago, William O'Neal, provided information that led to the murders by police of Illinois Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark on December 4, 1969, in the west side Chicago apartment used as the local BPP headquarters. Fred, a brilliant, charismatic leader who built the Chicago BPP chapter into one of the largest and most successful in the country, was shot to death while asleep in bed, probably drugged by O'Neal. (After living under an assumed identity for twenty years, O'Neal committed suicide in January 1990.)

Details of COINTELPRO operations against the BPP were published in the April 1976 final report of the U.S. Senate committee investigating intelligence activities, known as the Church Committee for its chair, then-Senator Frank Church of Idaho. The introduction to the 989-page report concluded:

> Many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all targets had been involved in violent activity, but COINTELPRO went far beyond that. The unexpressed major premise of the programs was that a law enforcement agency has the duty to do whatever is necessary to combat perceived threats to the existing social and political order.

Former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Accusing the FBI of inciting violence between Panthers and other groups, the Church Committee declared:

> It is deplorable that officials of the United States government should engage in the activities described below...equally disturbing is the pride which those officials took in claiming credit for the bloodshed that occurred.

First *Black Panther* Focuses on Denzil Dowell Killing

The first issue of *The Black Panther Black Community News Service*, a four-page, mimeographed sheet published April 25, 1967, focused on the killing of Denzil Dowell, a 22-year-old black man, by a white sheriff's deputy in Richmond, California. According to the official police report, Dowell was killed after he fled from the deputy, who had stopped Dowell and ordered him to show his identification. Dowell's family disputed the police account and charged that he was murdered. Residents of the area where Dowell was killed said they heard six to ten shots fired. The coroner's report said there were six to ten bullet wounds in Dowell's body, but the police said only three shots were fired. Police said Dowell jumped over a fence during their pursuit. Family members said a hip injury he received in a car accident some time earlier made it impossible for Dowell to jump over a fence. The family also charged that the deputy who killed Dowell knew him and had previously threatened to kill him.

The family of Dowell asked the fledgling BPP to investigate the young black man's killing, which was ruled justifiable homicide. The combative editorial of the inaugural *Black Panther* set the paper's tone for the next four years. After listing "questionable facts" about the killing raised by Dowell's family, the newspaper said:

> The white cop is the instrument sent into our community by the Power structure to keep Black people quiet and under control...it is time that Black people start moving in a direction that will free our communities from this form of outright brutal oppression. The BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF DEFENSE has worked out a program that is carefully designed to cope with this situation.

Emory Douglas, former BPP "revolutionary artist" and "minister of culture", coordinated layout and design of *The Black Panther* from the third issue of the paper until the last one in October 1980. In a March 1991 interview, he recalled the early days of *The Black Panther*.

"Huey compared the party's need for a publication with the armed struggle of the Vietnamese people that was going on at that time," Emory said. "He said that the Vietnamese carried mimeograph machines wherever they went to produce flyers and other literature to spread the word about their fight to free their country. The party needed to have a newspaper so we could tell our own story."

Eldridge Cleaver Becomes First Editor

Eldridge Cleaver, one of the BPP's most controversial leaders, was the first editor of *The Black*

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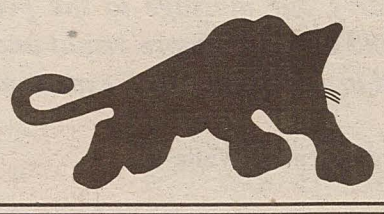

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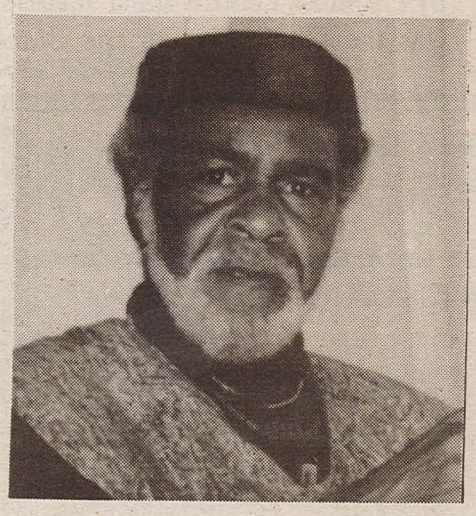

I'm not much on writing. I never intended to be a writer. As an artist I didn't think you needed to be a writer or even to talk about your work or even to do lots of other tasks that goes along with your work. Not so. We, as black artists will have to do much more than just paint. We have to paint and also carry our message to the people and become a more visual and viable part of the black experience.

by Eugene E. White

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I really have appreciated your coverage of the Rodney King and Reginald Denny beating trials, and I want your readers to know that the problem exists across the nation.

Around the time of the King beating, a group of prisoners at the Mercer County, New Jersey Detention Center were watching a football game on TV in the recreation room, when an officer walked up and turned off the set, ordering prisoners back to their cells. In an attempt to voice their grievances, and bring attention to the plight of prisoners and conditions at the center, such as visitation rights, prisoners barricaded themselves in, and attempted to negotiate. They didn't take any hostages or threaten anyone, but they were met with the most extreme repression: an elite police force stormed the entire compound with attack dogs, and pumped in so much tear gas that reporters two days later were unable to enter the cell blocks. Prisoners reported being stripped naked and marched to the 6th story rooftop in downtown Trenton, where they were left all night to freeze in the November cold.

A meeting was held by the mayor and local activists at the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, where parents were warned to tell their children not to congregate on the street in groups because they could be subject to police attack. Speakers at the meeting informed community residents that FBI agents were publicly telling people that "It's OK," while privately agitating against the public, arming themselves with machine guns and high powered sniper rifles from stockpiles of arms supplied by free-floating FEMA agents. An atmosphere of terror descended on the low income and minority communities, who were denied the rights of free speech and public assembly, while outside forces moved behind the scenes. Heightened police presence, including additional troopers unfamiliar with the area, concentrated on the city streets, threatening to turn any peaceful protest into a violent confrontation.

The cause for the official concern is public outrage over the effect of trickle down policies, like urban enterprise zones, forced work and housing-as-condition-of-employment schemes, urban removal, carried on through the new vehicle of HUD-funded "blight redevelopment," and "transitional housing" for the homeless. Government control as funding source has pushed these destructive policies to the breaking point, while half a billion dollars ($6700 per man/woman and child in Trenton) is being spent on the tourism agenda, with guaranteed profits for the developers, a panic-stricken, reactionary attempt to offset the closing of strategic industries that the enterprise zones were to have saved.

In the meantime, the practice of police brutality on low income and minority residents has increased, under the same kind of conditions that gave rise to the original formulation. The "Hill case" presented a twist to the directed police brutality, where a black cop was videotaped pounding on a lone youth, much smaller than he, whose hands were kept behind his back to ensure against any possible charge of resisting this unprovoked physical assault. The case was brought by government prosecutors, but the photographer asserts that essential witnesses were not called, nor were the facts made known that Officer Hill had entered another home on the same block just minutes before, and beaten another youth right in front of his mother, seated in the front room. The officer received a slap on the wrist and was put back on the street after a small fine, while attempts were made to bribe the family of the victim into leaving the area.

One local resident reported sitting on his porch when he was accosted by a police officer who sprayed mace into his face, without provocation. He was then beaten, causing gashes around his wrist, which was still swollen after a week; his left ear was torn a full inch from his head. Police officers choked him and tried to open his eyes to get more mace in; and when he protested, he was told by the more than one dozen officers reportedly involved in the beating, "Shut up before we kill your m____f___ ass!" The man was handcuffed while he was beaten, and the beating only stopped, according to his statement, after he pretended to be unconscious.

Neighbors who tried to see what was going on were ordered back to their houses by police. The man was charged with simple assault and resisting arrest; his home was ransacked and valuables taken, his whereabouts were kept secret and he was denied medical care while in custody. Stitches and a head bandage were provided at the hospital emergency room, but he was then carted to the police station despite possible internal injuries and a medical report which prescribed "two days of ER or private MD — round the clock." The prison doctor prescribed only Motrin, which was never delivered. Requests for further examination and treatment were denied. He complained of severe headaches, pain in his eyes, shooting pains in his neck and down his spine. His hands are numb and he can not move two fingers on his left hand, and remains in that condition today.

Carol White
Trenton, New Jersey

Gambling on the River: Harrah's Comes to Mississippi

By Earnest McBride

Vicksburg, MS — Sunset on the Mississippi here at Vicksburg offers a majestic — though somewhat deceptive — vista of natural beauty that is worthy of its mention in folk literature and poetry.

Slightly west of the intersection of Washington and Pittman Streets, about midway through the city on old Highway 61, the river flows from west to east and looks more like a vast lake or an oceanic bay rather than the lengthy snake that crawls from north to south on most maps. It is here at this choice location that Harrah's Casino — the benchmark of gambling institutions in Nevada and Atlantic City — set up its employment office and training center ten months ago, shortly after winning the bid for the exclusive contractual rights to open a dockside casino on the city's waterfront. By Mississippi state law, filed in 1990, gambling facilities are required to be seaworthy vessels, even though fixed in place.

Yet Harrah's riverboat casino is not on the river. It is a mile-and-a-half northwest of the employee training center, on the Yazoo Diversion Canal. The smaller-capacity Isle of Capri casino sits on the river south of the canal, nevertheless. It opened August 9, thus getting the jump on Harrah's, which has the city's official blessing. Harrah's has built a 117-room hotel adjacent to its 30,000-plus square feet of space on the three-decker Star of Vicksburg.

The official opening of the new Harrah's casino took place as scheduled on November 15. The hotel, however, will not be available for occupancy for another two months, casino officials announced. The November 15 opening was really only a two-day trial run, known as a "soft" opening, which is required by state officials. The casino then had to shut down for 48 hours, while state officials checked the payoff levels of all the coin-operated machines, its accounting methods and the conduct of casino employees. If all systems were up to state standards, then the casino would get a passing mark, allowing it to operate 24 hours a day, Sundays included.

One of the major selling points for bringing dockside casinos into the state was jobs. Harrah's claims to have hired more than 800 people, about two-thirds of them from the immediate area. The Isle of Capri claimed to have hired more than 600 at the time of its opening August 9.

A total of seven riverboat casinos might eventually develop in the Vicksburg area, according to Mayor Joe Loviza, who has urged caution in the development of gambling facilities since taking office last July.

"We're not getting these jobs cheap," the mayor said of the 3,500 employees that will man the boats, if all goes according to plan. He expressed fear that part of the city's importance as a Civil War historical landmark may be lost in the increased frenzy of gambling activities. "We need to study each separately as they ask permission to locate in our city," the mayor told local media.

There has been a mixed reception locally by different interest groups and individuals looking upon this gambling fait accompli, which remains a question mark in many minds.

Governor Kirk Fordice, a resident of Vicksburg, is an unrelenting opponent of legalized gambling. The advent of high-stakes gaming is blamed on former Governor Ray Mabus, who fought first for offshore gambling and then for a state lottery. The state legislature rejected the bid for a lottery, while approving the offshore gambling in 1989.

In 1990, the lawmakers gave the river and gulf counties the right to vote on dockside gambling. The people of Vicksburg at first rejected gambling. But the following year the voters favored the ballot issue.

Continued on page 20

Atlantic City: Casinos and the Poor

For 16 years, low-income residents of Atlantic City, N.J., have experienced the difference between the promises of what a casino industry can do to develop economic opportunities in depressed areas through funding by casino taxes, and what the state casino bureaucracy actually comes through with. According to Atlantic City residents, a shortage of affordable housing has snowballed over the last 17 years, the victim of government-funded redevelopment to make way for casino gambling. No local jobs were created as the casinos imported workers from other states, and only the same low-paying service work jobs were available. More jobs were lost in the area than gained as small businesses folded.

In the initial promotional campaign for the 1974 referendum legalizing casino businesses in Atlantic City, the promise was to reinvigorate the economy, bring in more high-wage jobs, and increase health care and nursing care for the aged. The state's reinvestment authority has shifted its focus to a gateway at the foot of the Atlantic City Expressway and other non-housing projects.

To say that the reinvestment authority had "shifted its focus" is a huge understatement. Only six low-income housing structures have been built since the first year casinos made their appearance in Atlantic City in 1977; the need for housing has not been scratched, especially for the multitude ousted to make way for redevelopment.

"Since the advent of the casino era, the number of homeless families and individuals has increased enormously in the Atlantic City area," said a spokesperson of the New Jersey Tenants, Residents, and Householders Subcommittee. "When these casinos came in our people were given 'transition housing' in places like Ancora State Mental Hospital."

Government temporary housing for those families who lost their homes to the "development" of Atlantic City was only available for 60-90 days. As more "development" occurred over time, the first wave of those forced into homelessness were in the streets while the second wave moved into the welfare motels, and the process continues to this day. The homeless family rate went up slowly, so as not to be noticed by the public.

After years of low-income neighborhoods being razed, burned, and cleared to make room for casinos, Atlantic County residents have been left with a 1 percent affordable housing rate due to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority's decimation of low-income housing, uncontrolled land speculation, an increase in unexplained fires and massive city-inspired condemnations and demolitions of properties.

The Department of Human Services admitted in 1988 that 50 to 100 families would be made homeless each year due to lack of affordable housing. People actually set fire to their homes, and landlords to their buildings, to collect insurance. They also set them aflame because with no house present they could get more money for the land when the casino corporations bought it up. There was an 800 percent rise in house destruction cases over pre-casino times.

The people of Atlantic City will not hesitate to tell you that casino gambling is no solution. The money is not used for their welfare or benefit, but to move them out and to destroy what they have, and to generate schemes to lower wages and raise profits. Grassroots organizers in the community have told the *Commemorator* that conditions there are some of the worst in the country for low-income minorities, precisely because of the powers exercised by the Casino Control Commission, which has destroyed local labor unions while promising improvements for the low-income community. The promises have turned out to be empty ones. Until there is an increase in the number of higher-wage production jobs in the community, that situation does not appear likely to change.

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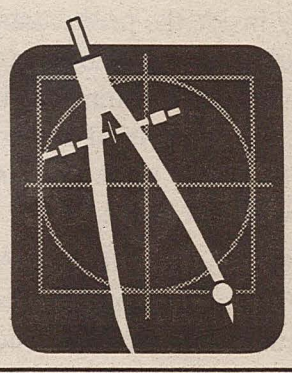

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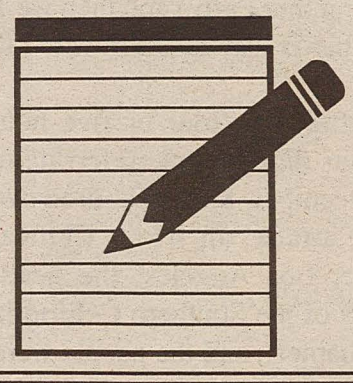


ARCHIVES

Continued from last issue

COINTELPRO – "Disrupt, Misdirect, Neutralize" Black Liberation Struggle

Q: What was your first assignment at CCS (Criminal Conspiracy Section of the LAPD) directed against the Black Panther Party?

TACKWOOD: After we got to a point where we generally knew where they were coming from, then we decided — we didn't decide, someone else decided for us — the final solution is we can put them all in jail, which doesn't seem to work, or kill them all off, which seems to work easy. So, there was a long discussion, saying, "Hey, we kill the little people off and it doesn't do any good, so let's start killing some of the big ones off." Somewhere along the line there was like a national directive: *"We're going to kill every Panther leader we can find. The ones we don't kill, run underground."*

Q: This is mid to late 1969?

TACKWOOD: Yes.

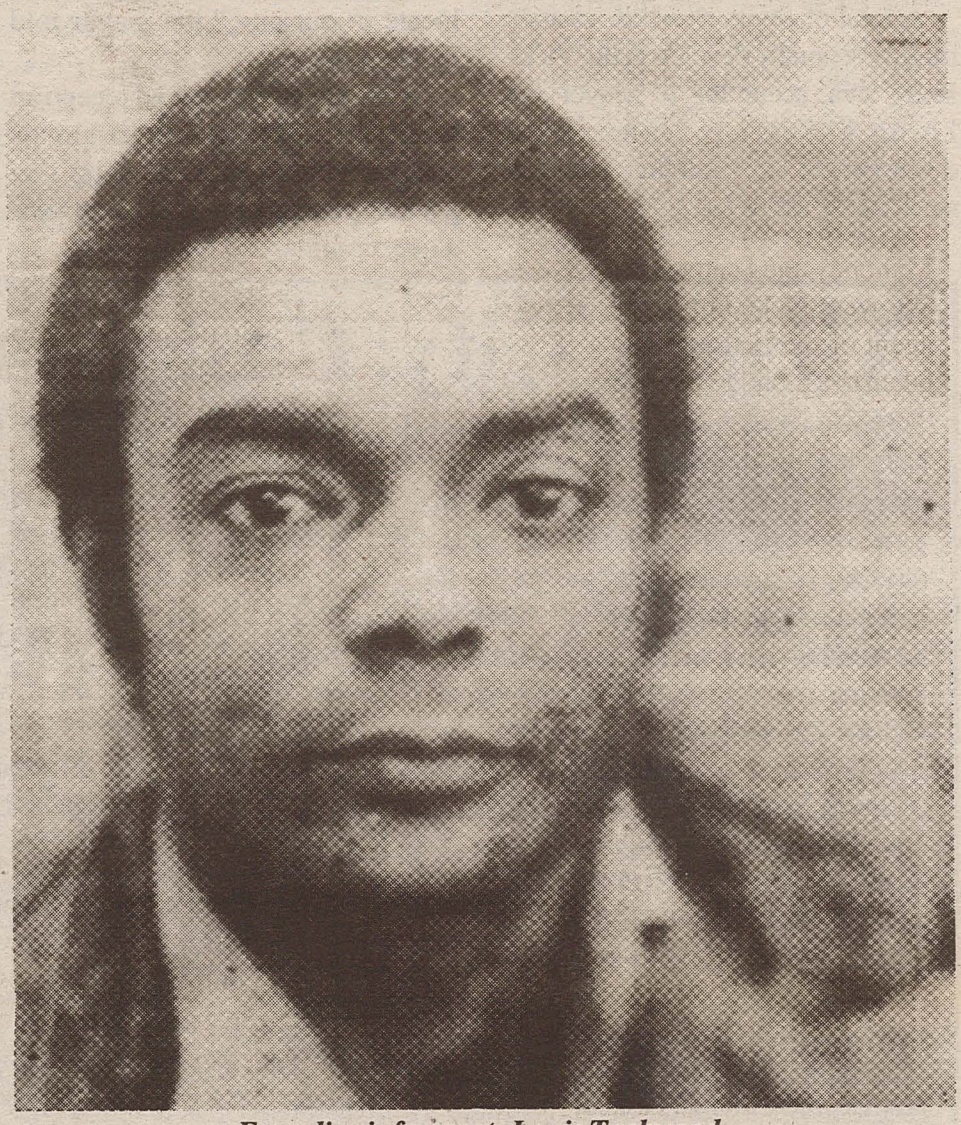
Q: What was your assignment in all this?

TACKWOOD: At first it was general. See who you can kill here. If it was possible to kill anyone in Los Angeles, let's see how we can set them up and kill them. Then, it came down this kind of way. I wasn't even aware of it, matter of fact, but one day I was sitting at home; there was a knock at the door and three police officers came in. "Guess what?," they said. "We've got an outtasight assignment for you. You're in big with the Panthers and don't know it."

They told me that the girl I was with had a brother named "Jackaldog." It was an alias; his name was James Edward Carr who, I'm going to tell you, was Huey Newton's bodyguard and considered a high-ranking Panther member. "Huey is supposed to get out (of prison) soon," they told me, "and we want you right on his ass."

This is how I got involved in The Conspiracy of Conspiracies. It was during this time that it was decided: "You (Tackwood) get in tight with the big ones (the leadership of the Black Panther Party) and then we'll have a better way to see how to kill them."

So after that, four or five hour shootouts didn't work (referring to the December 8, 1969, predawn police attack on 4115 Central Avenue, Los Angeles, the headquarters of the Southern California BPP Chapter), and the people were under indictment in such a way



Ex-police informant: Louis Tackwood.

where they (CCS) felt, "Well, we have them contained at the present time so we'll change our objective. What we'll do, we'll go and kill some Northern California Panthers, since the Party's up north." This is why I came up north.

Q: Were you assigned to watch anybody in particular when you came up north?

TACKWOOD: No, it wasn't a watch thing. If I can explain it to you: it was to figure out the best possible way to catch as many as you can at one time and kill 'em. My assignment was, well, a running conspiracy of the LAPD.

Q: So it wasn't to kill one person following one plan?

TACKWOOD: No. If one plan failed, or if one plan was junked because it was impractical, or because the Panthers themselves changed their movements, then a contingency plan was started up.

Three days before the August 7 (1970) shootout (referring to Jonathan Jackson's bid for freedom at the Marin County Courthouse in San Rafael, California. Jonathan, George Jackson's 17-year-old brother, was killed when waiting police shot up the van used in the escape try before it pulled out of the parking area. Black prison inmates William Christmas and James McClain were also killed in the van, as was Marin County Superior Court Judge Arthur Haley), the Santa Cruz police told CII it was going to happen. CII said, "OK, we're on top of it." That was it. There was never anything done about it — the judge wasn't even warned.

Q: The Santa Cruz police knew about it and the LAPD knew?

TACKWOOD: And SII (Special Identification and Investigation division of the LAPD). They had taps on the phone. You wouldn't believe the bugs they had or where. They had other agents too. But after that particular plot failed, then a second contingency plan from that group came up. This included Melvin "Cotton" Smith (a police agent who infiltrated the Black Panther Party). Smith was right in on the hot action, in the training camp, but he didn't know who was supplying the money and the overall planning of it. He was a soldier; he wasn't involved in the intellectual group in the conspiracy. When I came north what I found out was that the people who were involved in the second plot using the Southern California part of the Panther Party weren't Panther at all, but pretended to be Panther sympathizers (Committee of 7). So in the period of infiltration, I found out that there was a definite plot to kill Huey Newton.

Q: Going on at the same time?

TACKWOOD: Well, this was a plot by the same people who were going to break George Jackson out. They were just going to replace Huey with Jackson. Simple as that. I'm pretty sure that Jackson wasn't aware that they were trying to kill Huey. This was among a small group of people, and I happened to be at that meeting because they kind of halfway trusted me. As they were thinking of all the ways of killing Huey —"let's poison him, shoot him, what not"— I came up with, "Hey let's bomb him."

At first, everybody was for it. I'll tell you the exact place where they were going to kill him. You see, Santa Cruz has a retreat for the BSA (Black Student Alliance) in Metchin. So they were going to invite Huey there to speak. He was writing a book at that time, in fact with (J. Herman) Blake. They were going to invite him to speak, and while he was speaking, "Boom!" Everyone would say, "Oh, the police killed him."

The problem came up that some of the leaders of their conspiracy would be there on the podium. So, "No, we can't blow him up." This was about September 1970. He never knew. Huey never knew. He never knew that his friends, some of whom he trusted in at times, had righteously considered bombing him.

Q: You want to name names?

TACKWOOD: Yeah, Blake. Herman Blake was one of the main sticks in it. But Carr (James Carr, a former BPP member) got wind of it, and Carr blamed DeMonica and Don Nance. He went after them, not knowing that it was Blake all the time....

After various plans to kill George Jackson failed, it was decided, "If we can convince Jackson he's being broke out, he'll convince the rest of them." If Jackson thought he had an ally inside the penitentiary, then he could convince the ones who were going to break him out in the first place, who'd tried and tried again, to try it one more time. And that's how he got killed.

Q: You said that on August 22, 1971, you had a meeting at CCS and someone said, "CII fucked up." Were they working separately or

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together with CCS in plotting George's assassination?

TACKWOOD: That's what I'm trying to explain to everybody. Even within the Los Angeles Police Department, Intelligence, SII, they all stayed within one general frame of mind, but they worked independently of each other. They're all trying to pull this off. CII is the same way. Everybody wants to be king of the mountain and do the best job. So what happens is that each of them have their own informers, their own agents; each one of them has its own plans. It's like if we found out George is about to be killed on the first by some other group, we'll work on killing him on the thirty-first.

Q: How many people did the police have working along these lines?

TACKWOOD: I know of only 17 officers in CCS. Their knowledge was so great, so far reaching—reaching all the way to when Huey Newton came to town, where he stayed, what he did—that they had to have at least 120 to 130 people working for them in and out of the Panther Party; on all levels, from the Friends of the Panther Party on up.

Q: Did you ever work with or for the federal government?

TACKWOOD: Yeah. With Edward Birch. I'll tell you, it was a national type thing. It wasn't to get rid of some Black Panthers; it was to get rid of the Black Panther Party as a whole. And within the shortest period of time possible and the least expense.

Q: Did you take part in any of the FBI COINTELPRO program?

TACKWOOD: I didn't know it was the COINTELPRO program at the time, but from the knowledge I have now and the years that have passed, I'm attuned to it.

Q: Under what jurisdiction does CCS act?

TACKWOOD: I'll tell you a very interesting story and this will show you the scope of CCS. You remember when Nixon was in San Jose? There was a riot. Well, what I didn't know — and this has been verified — is that everybody thinks he was totally guarded by the Secret Service. But you see it's the FBI contingency that flies in before him and clears things up. So, the night of this riot, Bob Sharrett, Dan Mahoney and I came up to San Jose. We were picked up by the resident agent of the FBI in Santa Cruz and taken to a motel in Santa Cruz where there were many, many FBI agents. There were 12 or 13 of them. They were off in a room with flak jackets, high powered rifles, the best that was available at the time. And we all got in custom-long cars and went on a raid that wasn't successful — against the Panthers.

What was happening was that all this was another plan against the Panthers. They were going to kill off all the people training up there, just kill them off. Huey Newton was supposed to be visiting there, along with some of the Party's top leadership.

But the amazing thing is that I found these FBI agents weren't familiar with the area. I asked, "Well, where are these FBI agents from?" These were the agents that were travelling with Nixon. This shows you the power and scope of CCS.

The scope of what I'm saying: phone conversations that must have been made, and to whom, to get Nixon's bodyguards to go along on a raid? That came right out of Washington. The implications of that are tremendous.

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Huey's Corner

Black Capitalism Re-Analyzed

Excerpt from *To Die for the People.*

This is a dialogue in our continuing discussion of the new thrust of the Black Panther Party as we begin to carry out the original vision of the Party. When we coined the expression "All Power to the People," we had in mind emphasizing the word "Power," for we recognize that the will to power is the basic drive of man. But it is incorrect to seek power over people. We have been subjected to the dehumanizing power of exploitation and racism for hundreds of years, and the Black community has its own will to power also. What we seek, however, is not power over people, but the power to control our own destiny. For us the true definition of power is not in terms of how many people you can control, to us power is the ability to first of all define phenomena, and secondly the ability to make these phenomena act in a desired manner.

We see then that power has a dual character — we cannot simply identify and define phenomena without acting, for to do so is to become an armchair philosopher. And when Bobby and I left Merritt College to organize brothers on the block, we did so because the college students were too content to sit around and analyze without acting. On the other hand, power includes action, for it is making phenomena perform, in the desired manner. But action without thinking and theory is also incorrect, for if the social forces at work in the community have not been correctly analyzed and defined, how can you control them in such a way that they act in a desired manner. So the Black Panther Party has always merged theory and practice in such a way as to serve the true interests of the community.

In merging theory with practice we recognized that it was necessary to develop a theory which was good for one time and place and not another. We wanted to develop a system of thinking which was good anywhere — thus it had to be rather abstract. Yet our theory would relate to a concrete analysis of concrete conditions, so that our actions would always be relevant and profitable to the people while at the same time advancing their thinking so that they would move toward a transformation of their situation of exploitation and oppression. So we have always insisted on good theory and good practice; but we have not always been successful in carrying this through.

When the Black Panther Party defected from the Black community, we became, for a while revolutionary cultists. One of the primary characteristics of a revolutionary cultist is that he despises everyone who has not reached the level of consciousness that he thinks he is at, instead of acting to bring the people to that level. In that way the revolutionary cultist becomes divided from the people — he defects from the community. Instead of serving the people as a vanguard, he becomes a hero. Heroes engage in very courageous actions sometimes, and they often make great sacrifices, including the supreme sacrifice, but they are still isolated from the people. Their courageous actions and sacrifices do not lead the people to a higher level of consciousness, nor do they produce fundamental changes in the exploitation and oppression of the people. A vanguard, however, will guide the people into higher levels of consciousness and in that way bring them to the point where they will take sterner actions in their own interests and against those who continue to oppress them. As I've said previously, revolution is a process not a conclusion. A true revolutionist will not only take courageous actions, he will also try to advance the people in such a manner that they will transform their situation. That is, delivering power to the people, for the true revolutionist will help them define the social phenomena in operation in their community and then lead them to the point where they will seize the time and make these phenomena act in a desired manner.

Therefore as revolutionaries, we must recognize the difference between what the people can do and what they will do. They can do anything they desire to do, but they will only take those actions which are consistent with their level of consciousness and their understanding of the situation. When we raise their consciousness, they will understand even more fully what they, in fact, can do, and they will move on the situation in a courageous manner. This is merging theory with practice.

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Last night dream was of erudition
As some strange voice said unto me,
"You'll never
Learn until you assert yourself
You could be on to something really Great
You won't know until you give yourself
a chance
So what if you make a mistake?
As always: a lesson from an honest mistake.
For, if nothing else, you shall gain
in insight/knowledge
From the honest mistake.
With that type of attitude you can't lose.
Suppose you never give yourself a chance
What would you gain?
More negativity?
Correct.

— Melvin Dickson

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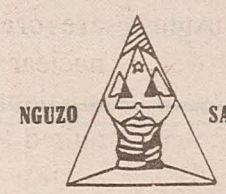

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"African People Experiencing Unity Through the Afro-Asiatic Christ"
Eph 4:12-12

November 28: Kujichagulia (Self Determination)
"The African Community Can Fir.d Self Determination In the Afro-Asiatic Christ"
Mark 14:60-62

December 5: Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibiiiiy)
"Collective Work and Responsibility In the African Community Must Be Focused On the Afro-Asiatic Christ"
Luke 5:4-6

December 12: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
"Cooperative Economic Development for the African Community Is a Part of the Afro-Asiatic Christ Vision"
Luke 4:16-21

December 19: Nia (Purpose)
"God Calls the African Community to the Purpose of Restoring Its Traditional Greatness"
Jeremiah 1:4-8, 1:17-19

December 26: Imani (Faith)
"Does the Birth of the Afro-Asiatic Christ Strengthen the African Community Faith?"
Matthew 1:18-25

January 2: Kuumba (Creativity)
"Using our God Given Creativity and Gifts to Empower the African Community"
First Corinthians 12:1-11

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Islam & Blood

Continued from page 5

were still based at Afghan Mujahedeen facilities in Peshawar, Pakistan or Afghanistan as of March 1993, according to U.S. intelligence sources. Sheik Rahman has two sons based in Afghanistan who are veterans of the war, according to interviews with family members in Fayoum, Egypt. Specialists on Afghanistan have also linked Sheik Rahman to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of a radically militant Afghan rebel faction which has repeatedly fought against more moderate elements of the Afghan Mujahedeen. The Afghan Mujahedeen have spent considerable time fighting among themselves for power since the fall of the once Soviet backed government of President Najibullah, in April 1992.

Fear of the rising influence of Afghan groups in Pakistan prompted officials there to close many Mujahedeen offices in Peshawar in 1992. Western, Arab and U.S. diplomatic and intelligence sources claim the return of these expelled Afghan rebel fighters to their home countries by way of Iran and Sudan (recently classified as a terrorist nation by the U.S.) is responsible for rapidly accelerating and radicalizing the anti-government struggles in North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

One senior Egyptian official described the anti-government struggle in Egypt as having been "radically transformed" by the return of fighters from Afghanistan skilled in insurgency tactics such as ambush and car bombing; and as having been made more Islamic by these advocates of "political Islam." Arab diplomats also point to the $6.6 billion in U.S. and Saudi funds as a major factor in arms purchases by the Afghan Mujahedeen, such as stinger missiles.

Western, Arabic and U.S. diplomatic and intelligence sources have further alleged ties between revolutionary Islamic fundamentalist organizations and so-called international terrorism by claiming that communiques from the Islamic group, credited with attacks on tourists in Egypt, were sent from bases associated with Afghan-linked Muslim militants in Peshawar, Pakistan.

To summarize: Western and Arab governments and their presses increasingly paint a picture of Afghanistan and its surroundings, including the Iranian and Afghan bases in Peshawar, as the epicenter of so-called world terrorism and political Islamic insurgency aimed at violently overthrowing governments in Central Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, and other predominantly Muslim states and regions.

Next door to the turmoil in Afghanistan, Iran is linked by Western and Arab diplomatic and intelligence sources through Afghanistan to attempts to use political Islamic fundamentalist revolution to overthrow governments, including a number in the Middle East and North Africa. These same sources have accused Iran of being the mentor and supporter of Hamas, which opposes the recent so-called Israeli-Palestinian peace accord to the extent that it seeks to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is now in part subject to the combined protection of the Israeli and U.S. secret services and intelligence communities.

Iran has also been accused of being a major factor in the conflict in Lebanon, which has recently seen Israeli air and artillery attacks on alleged anti-Israeli insurgent positions. According to U.S. intelligence community media sources, Iran's revolutionary "Party of God" Hezbollah, formerly operating under Syria's mandate in Lebanon, is responsible for guerilla raids in Israeli territory.

The U.S. State Department announcement — prior to Israeli-PLO signing of the so-called Middle East peace accord in Washington, D.C. — of forthcoming Syrian-Israeli and Israeli-Jordanian peace agreements will effectively serve to further isolate Iran by portraying the country as a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East by virtue of her alleged support of Hamas and other militant Muslim groups that oppose the Israeli-PLO agreement.

Syria's Strategic About Face

Syria has recently rescinded Hezbollah's authority to operate in Lebanon, in an attempt to market itself as a viable instrument for global fascism's current Middle East strategy. The Gulf War presented an opportunity for Syria to take a giant step forward in its efforts to moderate its international position by aligning itself with the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

Saddam Hussein had been one of Syrian President Assad's main competitors for regional dominance as a Nasser-type figure in the Middle East. Syria's ability to increase its regional leadership stature was being held back as a result of being labeled by the U.S. as a terrorist nation, isolating her within the Middle East and the world.

Syria needed opportunities to shed its international terrorist image and portray itself as becoming more moderate, and as capable of capitalizing on regional pan-Arab, pan-Islamic popular sentiment.

Meanwhile, Saddam Hussein as leader of the Ba'ath Party's right wing was positioning himself, the right wing of his party and Iraq as the dominant force within OPEC, Arab OPEC, the Arab League and the Middle East.

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75th Anniversary

Continued from page 3

population while sweeping the problems of drug addiction, Agent Orange exposure, defection and civilian murder among American troops. More United States veterans from the era (when the United States was waging war against Vietnam) have committed suicide or died in single car accidents than were killed in battle during the war itself.

The suicide rates for veterans continue to be higher than that of the general population. One-third of all homeless men in the United States are veterans. Woman veterans, have faced, if anything, higher rates of post-traumatic stress than male veterans, and have received less care.

Since 1986, only 35% of veterans seeking benefits for college financial aid have been able to use those benefits. In fact, the military has actually made $720 million profit off GI's who expected to get financial aid. (The Montgomery GI Bill promised $10,800 for college. To be eligible, soldiers must immediately upon enlistment, sign up and begin paying $100 a month during their first year of service. This $1200 is non-refundable. In order to get any money from the Montgomery GI Bill, a soldier or sailor must receive an honorable discharge. A general discharge is not acceptable. One out of four GI's aren't discharged honorably. They won't get one red cent of college assistance and the government keeps their $1200.)

Despite an American press sworn to secrecy in return for favorable FCC rulings permitting prime time reruns, providing millions in windfall profits to the industry, now, two years after Operation Desert Storm, the truth is seeping out of the massacre of over one-half million Iraqi civilians, and the long-term disabilities of American troops.

Since February, 1991, several thousand American troops who served in the Middle East region have complained about memory loss, heart problems, fatigue and unusual rashes — symptoms that have baffled doctors.

And although some veterans' groups and lawmakers have seized on the theory that the troops were exposed to toxic chemicals, despite repeated Pentagon denials that Iraq ever used nerve gas or other chemical or biological weapons in the Gulf War, the United States' use of biological or chemical weapons has neither been confirmed nor denied.

In the government's most detailed attempt to explain the problems, the now former Defense Secretary Les Aspin said recently that experts had found no reason to dispute the detection of Sarin, a nerve gas manufactured by Czech chemical warfare experts in Saudi Arabia in the week after the air war started in 1991. But Mr. Aspin said the Czech reports could not be independently corroborated. Even if the chemicals had been present, Mr. Aspin said, they were not detected at levels high enough to cause the symptoms that the American troops are experiencing. Major General Ronald R. Blanck, Commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, suggested that most of the veterans were suffering from exposure to a toxic mix of airborne chemicals from oil well fires and accidental spills of ammonia and chlorine near Saudi ports. General Blanck identified the two units that have been heavily affected by the symptoms as a Navy Seebee Reserve unit from Columbus, Ga. and an ordnance company from Birmingham, Ala.

Top Pentagon officials are treading carefully to avoid a repeat of the Agent Orange debacle, in which the government for years denied that the defoliant used in South East Asia caused serious medical problems for Vietnam veterans.

The news media have become organizations of government policy pronouncement as a matter of economic necessity, and so they have cooperated with the Clinton administration's efforts to enter the conflict surrounding the Balkan fighting between Serbia and Bosnia in the former Yugoslavia, a prospect which has received a cool response from terrified Western European leaders who remember the horrors of the first World War.

It's a small wonder that the 75th anniversary of Armistice Day passed with hardly a mention in the press. Those who determine our future don't want us to know our history because they want to be free to repeat the errors of the past.

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U.S. Veterans: DU and Die

By Sam Diener

On Veterans' Day, it is vital to re-examine the results of wars on those veterans who were ordered to fight,and on the civilians in the war torn areas. This year, the most pressing issue facing Persian Gulf veterans is the need for research and treatment of the Gulf War mystery illness afflicting ever-increasing numbers of veterans from that war. One principle that military leaders never seem to learn (or want to learn) is that all weapons boomerang. In addition to killing approximately 100,000 Iraqis directly, the weapons used against Iraq now seem to be creating untold medical damage among Gulf War veterans.

Gulf War Mystery Illness

The symptoms of the mystery illness include: muscular spasms and weakness, respiratory problems, deterioration of organs, fatigue, headaches, weight loss, hair loss and discoloration, memory loss, skin rashes and growths, sensations of "pins and needles" in various areas, loss of sensation, confusion, nervousness, impotence, infertility, miscarriages and birth defects.

An accurate description of the causes and nature of the medical problems is complicated by the multitude of possible causes. Hypothesized causes include: the effects of partially combusted hydrocarbons from the oil-well fires, negative side-effects of secret experimental drugs, radiation or poisonous gases from depleted uranium (DU), sand-flea-parasite infestation, Iraqi chemical warfare agents, and/or a combination of these and other factors. Here, since the mainstream media has only given sporadic attention to these theories, it is most important to focus on the possibility that the illness is caused by the experimental drugs or by depleted uranium.

The Experimental Drug Hypothesis

Several experimental anti-chemical and anti-biological warfare drugs were used in the Persian Gulf. Some were given in pill form and some were injected. Different drugs were given to various units. Records were supposed to have been maintained, but field conditions resulted in more than a few paperwork errors. The use of these drugs is seldom mentioned in the popular media, and it's not because there is any doubt that they were used. One GI filed a lawsuit against the Army because he didn't want to take these drugs. The court decided that the enlistment contract was all the permission that the military needed to force uniformed personnel to become experimental animals.

The right to refuse to be used as a medical guinea pig is one more human right that the military, unconscionably, now denies its soldiers. Currently, neither the recipients of these drugs nor their doctors know even the name or chemical composition of these compounds, most likely geneticallly engineered at Fort Detrick, Maryland, since the military insists that this is classified information. A secondary problem is that there are no medical records about the effect of these drugs upon humans, since they had evidently never been used on humans before. Veterans who have raised this issue as a possible cause of Gulf War illness have been scoffed at. It's bad enough to force soldiers to take untested pharmaceuticals, but dismissing complaints about possible negative side-effects while refusing to release relevant information is barbarous.

The Depleted Uranium Hypothesis

Depleted Uranium is an ultra-dense material that the military is using in artillery, anti-aircraft and tank shells as well as tank armor. The cores of the U.S.-made shells are crafted from radioactive nuclear waste produced during the uranium enrichment process required to make atom bombs and nuclear fuel rods. The dense but useless DU is often given to weapons manufacturers free-of-charge. Before examining the effect of depleted uranium on U.S. vets, we need to understand the evidence of the poisoning of Iraqis by this poisonous material. The symptoms that Gulf War vets are experiencing might be a milder form of the disaster which is befalling Iraqi civilians.

Effect of DU on Iraqi Civilians

Radioactive shells used by the U.S.-led coalition forces during the Gulf War two years ago may be the cause of a cancer epidemic afflicting Iraqi children. Doctors have been perplexed by the number of mysterious and inexplicable post-war illnesses in Iraqi children. "Almost invariably fatal, this post-war plague also includes a rise in childhood cancers, leukemia being the most common among them," says Eric Hoskins, a Canadian doctor who has visited Iraq 12 times since the end of the Gulf War.

Hoskins says investigations turned up radioactive shells —

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Gateway

Continued from page 1

ships" (combine duties) and that old favorite, "empowerment" (more work for basically the same pay).

Kaiser is saying that they are feeling the pinch of the HMO explosion in California, and are trying to adjust in the tried- and-true method of big business: exploit the staff and make 'em like it. Furthermore, it is clear that the quality of patient care will take a downhill slide.

The crux of this restructuring plan, called the Gateway Project, is essentially the reassignment of the duties of nursing staff (or, as Kaiser loves to call them, the "caregiving staff") and, more specifically, the duties of the nurses' assistants. As it stands today, according to models

The reason they are skeptical has a lot to do with the ramifications of having unlicensed workers performing duties that were assigned to licensed employees.

of Kaiser hospital's procedure and job description, these nurses' assistants (called nurses' aides) are responsible for the "lower end" of patient-care activity: monitoring of patient activity, recording of data, administration of patient comfort. However, these nurses' aides are licensed and their salaries reflect this fact. To nurses, their performance is invaluable. Their presence allows nurses to see to the majority of their patients' needs and to maintain the quality of care patients have come to expect.

Kaiser, however, found that admissions were down and the hospital's dearth of revenue reportedly necessitated a severe cutback in the deployment of nurses' aides. This, in turn, led to the assignment of extra duties — formerly ascribed to the aides — to the nurses themselves.

The Gateway Project, according to hospital management, aspires to fill the void left by the cut in nurses' aides' staffing hours by training the housekeeping staff — who presently remove the trash, empty bedpans and generally maintain the physical hospital space — to become what management has dubbed "multi-skilled caregivers," an open-ended job title that promises to be forever changing as the needs of the hospital administration fluctuate. These "multi-skilled caregivers" would be unlicensed, the beneficiaries of several weeks' in-house training, and, although they will ostensibly perform many of the duties they performed when they were mere housekeepers — in addition to their new multi-skilled duties — it is an even bet that their new pay will only marginally eclipse their current wages, and will probably not come close to matching that of the current licensed nurses' aides. Thus, Kaiser removes an "unnecessarily expensive" appendage, as it were, by "empowering" another, heretofore underprivileged group of employees; stuff gets done at a fraction of the cost, folks are impressed, and everybody's happy, right?

We-eee-ll, not quite.

You see, what Kaiser isn't saying in all their enthusiasm for the new cost-effective rhetoric, is that the powerful California Nurses' Association (CNA) ain't goin' for th' okey-doke. The reason they are skeptical has a lot to do with the ramifications of having unlicensed workers performing duties that were assigned to licensed employees.

Number one, the mere fact that this is the case does little to decrease the nurses' workloads and, more to the point, does absolutely nothing to increase their salaries. Number two, the fact that the title "multi-skilled caregivers" implies an open-ended, change-as-needed job description, actually threatens the job security of the nurses, many of whom in the Kaiser system are minority workers, and thus have learned to fear, with good reason, the old maxim "last hired, first fired." As the multi-skilled caregiver assumes new duties, who's to say Kaiser won't decide they don't need as many nurses per ward?

Many nurses have expressed concern over the quality of care given to patients by nurses who may be overworked and "assistants" who are, for all intents and purposes, undertrained. The upshot of all this, of course, is that morale would suffer all the way around, as the hospital essentially lowers the standards in its primary mission "saving lives and making people well." Kaiser's management was unavailable to comment directly upon the implementation of this project. Although it is still couched as "just a project," the rhetoric of their information documents give little doubt that they are anxious to move in this direction. The *Commemorator* will undertake to watch the development of the Gateway Project with great interest.

Islam & Blood

Continued from page 14

The Gulf War and OPEC

Many factors made the Gulf War a critical endeavor to the U.S. and its allies. Not least among them was their steadily declining ability to control the petroleum supplies they needed for domestic use and for strategic reserves.

OPEC and the Soviet bloc increased their oil production by 172.3 percent and 301.4 percent, respectively, from 1960 to 1990. In the same period, U.S. production rose by only 3.7 percent. From 1973 to 1990, total U.S. energy imports (measured in BTUs) went up only 9.1 percent. However, crude oil represented only 54.3 percent of energy imports in 1973, but jumped to 90 percent by 1990 (see sidebar). While the U.S. imported mainly from OPEC dominated by Middle Eastern states, Western Europe relied heavily on Soviet bloc oil flowing through the pipeline connecting the two regions. Clearly, the fate of the West was not in the hands of friendly or entirely reliable governments.

The Gulf War smashed OPEC for all practical purposes to the extent that oil prices currently stand at a seven-year low. Military bases for the staging and deployment of fascist New World Order military forces were not only reestablished in the Middle East but in such a manner that they effectively completed an encircling of the USSR, implicitly forcing its compliance and hastening its demise. The Gulf War also struck a new balance of power in the Middle East and enabled, including Japan, Germany and Saudi Arabia, which may reasonably be viewed as destabilizing within the context of a global recession.

Oil, Petro and Eurodollars, Strategic Resources, Global Economy and Finance

In addition to U.S. energy dependence on Arab, OPEC and Middle Eastern oil for imports and strategic reserves, the economies and currencies of the U.S., Germany, Japan and their European allies were vulnerable to the undermining effects of the OPEC petrodollar and Soviet eurodollar.

The U.S. created the petrodollar to buy Middle Eastern oil and Europe used the eurodollar to buy Soviet oil via the pipeline. Petrodollars were paid for Middle Eastern oil

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"Democratic"

Continued from page 6

Only in Russia could a "democrat" shred the Constitution, ban Parliament, shut down opposition newspapers, unleash tank fire on Congress, remove provincial governors and impose dusk to dawn curfews.

The "Great Democrat," Czar Boris I, owes his power not to the Russian people, but to the loyalty of the generals and to Western goodwill.

The Western corporate media condemned members of Parliament as "oldline Communists," "right-wingers," and "monarchists," praising Yeltsin as Russia's greatest hope.

By the West's coronation of Czar Boris as "democrat" they actually meant "most open to Western capital investment."

They opposed the Rutskoi/Khasbulatov Parliament because both men, especially Khasbulatov, strenuously opposed the economic direction in which Russia was headed.

In December 1992, Khasbulatov, speaking at the 7th session of Congress, attacked the "Americanization" of the Russian economy, calling instead for a "socially-oriented market" similar to those found to be successful in Europe, Canada and China. One scholar reports Khasbulatov's comments were "warmly received" (Prof. S. White, "Russia: Yeltsin's Kingdom or Parliament's Playground?" *Current History*, October 1993).

Surely, neither Yeltsin nor the GATT 7 received his words too warmly. So atomized is Russian society from the recent political, economic and social upheavals in their country, that a poll asking "who ruled Russia?" turned up: the Mafia (21.8 percent); no one at all (9.3 percent); Yeltsin (9.7 percent); the government (3.9 percent); Parliament (0.? percent); and alcoholics (0.2 percent).

Capitalism is coming to Russia, and with it comes the inevitable poverty, class strife, ethnic hatred, blood, nihilism and alienation.

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Uncaring Plan

Continued from page 1

issues involved never having been considered in the course of the processes of legislation and administration. A crucial issue, for instance, is whether a single-payer, non-HMO system such as those in force in places like Canada should be put in. But the material evidentiary record of single-payer health care systems is being buried by simple non-reference to it over a period of time by legislative and administrative forces, and the public is becoming exhausted from

"...when we ask questions about what care our people will be given, all they talk to us about is the need to cut costs."

hammering at the closed doors of a public press utilized as a tool to make the process most appealing to those who *could* most adequately pay the health-care bill," said Melvin Dickson of the *Commemorator*.

"Insurance companies are pumping millions into public relations and political contributions to push the program through. The cost will be over $800 billion over the next five years, according to the government, and companies are striving to have their profits guaranteed and increased. The same is true of the large corporations that currently pay more than 8 percent of their payrolls for employee medical plans. When we ask questions about what care our people will be given, all they talk to us about is the need to cut costs."

Point Six of the Black Panther Party 10-Point Program calls for "Completely free health care for all Black and oppressed people. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which come about because of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care."

A lot of things have changed since the words in Point Six were written. The ranks of the oppressed in the United States are no longer limited to blacks and other minorities, or to the uneducated and unskilled. They now include workers who had attained a good life, working in manufacturing industries which paid the union scale. As the numbers of the oppressed reach into the hundreds of millions in this nation alone, the government and industry are going all out to sell each disparate sub-group among them on one or a few elements of the managed care program, designed to give them alone some momentary advantage. The purpose is to prevent them from voicing opposition to the program, at least until it goes in. Those elements, like mental health coverage, will be discussed to such a bewildering extent that people will be willing to agree to almost anything else.

Government Program Will Not Meet Need

In other words, whatever straw man the government decides to erect to capture the opposition, it will not meet the criteria set forth in the BPP program; the health and welfare of the people of the nation will not be the guiding motivation, and most of the population will remain in ignorance of the fact that the cost of health care is growing because *workers cannot afford health care*. Because of that simple fact, it is inescapable that health care costs will continue to increase and services will diminish in quality and quantity until those same workers have jobs at decent pay and are able to pay their medical bills.

Following the presentation of the Health Security Act by President Clinton to a joint session of Congress in October 1993, numerous groupings and sectors of the population which had previously expressed support and agreement with the need for the "complete reorganization of our health care delivery system," apparently having read the specifics of the proposed legislation, are organizing campaigns of opposition to the parts that affect them the most.

Other Groups Take Exception to Clinton Plan

Thus, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has written Mr. Clinton that as presently worded, the Act is unacceptable because it sets minimum payment levels that many low and fixed-income elderly on Social Security and low pensions simply cannot afford to pay. AARP is probably the strongest consumer organization in the country, with over 30,000 members and a high level of membership interest and organizational experience.

Benjamin Chavis, new head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP), the oldest and most conservative of predominantly black civil rights organizations; Jesse Jackson, perennial candidate for the U.S. presidency; and New York's Rev. Al Sharpton, along with numerous black church ministers, have taken exception to the Clinton plan unless appropriate changes are made.

Throughout the history of this nation, those in financial control have always used the same tactics to protect their investments. In the farm labor movement, the Bracero program was voted out and Public Law 78 was voted in, by using the existence of the Braceros to scare American workers into uniting with the growers against the immigrant population. In 1947, the Taft-Hartley law, which destroyed organized labor under the AFL-CIO umbrella as a viable force, ran against 2,661 strikes, as the government terrorized the working population with talk of depression and angered them with the idea that one or another group was advancing faster than they were.

It has always been a case of divide and conquer, such as occurred when we entered World War I to ensure payment of $40 billion in loans by U.S. banks to England and France.

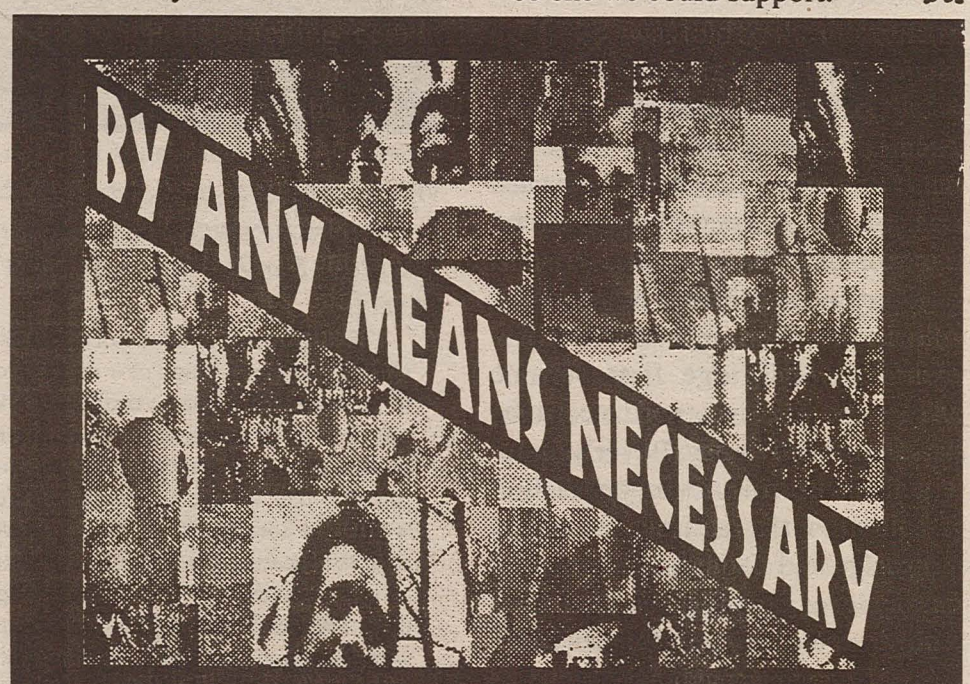
It has always been a case of *divide and conquer*, such as occurred when we entered World War I to ensure payment of $40 billion in loans by U.S. banks to England and France.

The Clinton administration is playing with the lives of the poor in America. The poor will not get the care they need under the Health Security Act in whatever form it is passed. Nowhere in the President's plan or the alternatives that have been offered is there any statement of universal, single-payment plans; nowhere is there a mention of letting students work in health care to "pay back" loans for schooling as medical practitioners. Experts have estimated that the Canada plan would save $52 billion in administrative costs alone, yet there is no mention of any such alternative in the press' handling of the "managed care debate" to date. Moreover, at the rate in which managed-care HMOs are being installed at the state level, both with and without federal administrative waiver, all the discussion is bypassed as the plan is installed bit by bit, state by state, day by day.

"Universal Coverage" Does Not Equal "Universal Care"

The President's plan will result in low and middle-income Americans facing stringent limits in coverage amounts, covered illnesses and choice of health care providers. The lack of consumer representation creates a pool which is so in need of medical coverage that Clinton's two-tiered health security proposal can be called "universal" *coverage* but rather than receiving universal *care*, they will experience a sort of ancillary managed care system, under which those afflicted with cancer and AIDS and other serious diseases will die from the care they receive.

"The President's plan starts at the wrong end; it must start with the poor, and with the educational system that can provide the practitioners to care for them. Then, all people within the nation will gain acceptable levals of care, and there will be no incentive toward sharp practices. Such a plan will provide the administrative savings the President desires, " said Dickson. "That would be a program which would provide medical care to all, including the poor, black and oppressed; that would be one we could support."



On April 29, 1992 south central Los Angeles led an urban rebellion against the daily injustices of police brutality.
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Infiltration

Continued from page 7

Panther. In December 1966, only five months before the first issue came out, he was paroled from prison. *Soul On Ice*, Eldridge's treatise on how being an oppressed black man in America led him to be a rapist, gained him national recognition. At Huey's invitation, he joined the party in 1966 after a BPP confrontation with police at the Berkeley office of *Ramparts* magazine, a white left publication. Eldridge was married to the former Kathleen Neal, who became BPP communications secretary and a well-known party spokesperson. Kathleen had been an activist in Nashville, Tennessee, in SNCC and in June 1967, a short-lived merger of the BPP and SNCC began.

Huey believed that the party could become more adept at community organizing using the successful tactics SNCC had employed in the South. In "Executive Mandate No. 2", published in the July 3, 1967 issue of *The Black Panther*, the BPP "drafted" SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael (now known as Kwame Toure) into the party with the rank of "field marshal." The alliance was formalized at a "Free Huey Rally" in Oakland on February 17, 1968, the 26th birthday of the incarcerated BPP co-founder.

"Eldridge was a flamboyant person in those days, and his writing was provocative", Emory tells us, in characterizing *The Black Panther*'s content under its first editor. Huey, Bobby, and other party members contributed ideas and articles to the paper. The newspaper also included articles from people in the community, a practice that continued throughout the paper's existence. Members of BPP chapters throughout the country wrote articles to report news and issues in their local areas.

"When Eldridge first became editor, the paper was produced at the home of his attorney, Beverly Axelrod", Emory said. Later, production moved to the apartment where Eldridge and Kathleen lived in San Francisco. Production also took place at the homes of other party members who lived in the city.

The first two issues of *The Black Panther* were done on a mimeograph machine. Afterwards, the newspaper was typed an graphics were done with instant type. Rubber cement was used to paste the galleys down. Kathleen and other BPP members typed and proofread articles.

Beginning with the third issue, Emory began to oversee the paper's format. "My job was to make the paper look appealing and to see that the art work was in line with the party's politics", he said. Under Emory's leadership, the newspaper's layout cadre used creative designs that most black newspapers had not widely used at the time. The front page of *The Black Panther* had a magazine flavor.

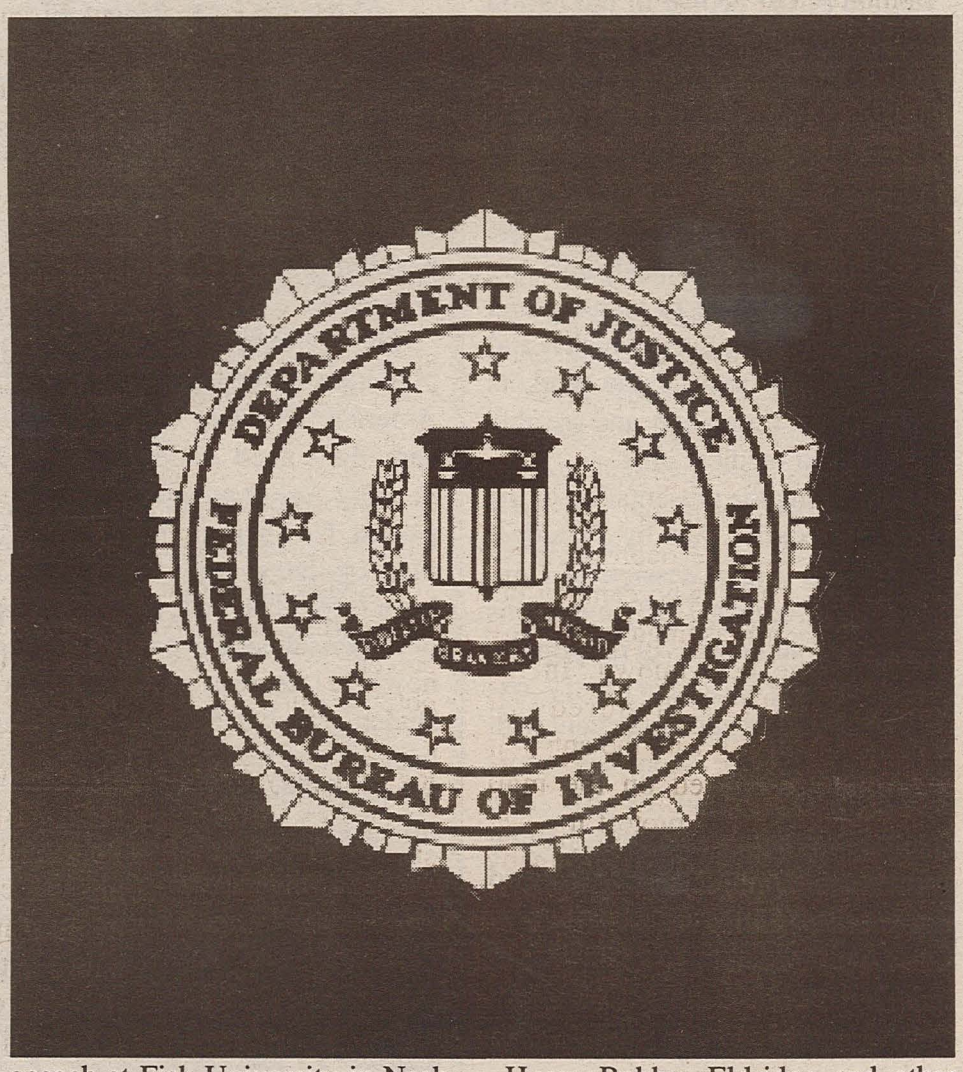
Emory Douglas: Revolutionary Artist

Emory would later outline his views as a revolutionary artist in a speech at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, in October 1972. In the speech, which was printed in *The Black Panther*, the ex-BPP artist said:

> "If we take this structure of commercial art and add a brand new content to it, then we will begin to analyze black people and our situation for the purpose of raising our consciousness to the oppression that we are subjected to. We would use commercial art for the purpose of educating Black people...No artist can sit in an ivory tower, discussing the problems of the day, and come up with a solution on a piece of paper. The artist has to be down on the ground; he has to hear the sounds of the people, the cries of the people, the suffering of the people, the laughter of the people — the dark side and the bright side of our lives...We must understand that when there are over 20 million people in this country, hungry, then we as artists, have something we must deal with."

In 1968, newspaper production moved to Berkeley after the party opened an office on Shattuck Avenue. A justifax machine and later a Compugraphic machine were used for typesetting. Throughout the 13 years of its production, *The Black Panther* was typeset at party offices by BPP members or others hired by the party.

Newspaper distribution was a party wide activity. In 1967, Emory distributed *The Black Panther* in his hometown of San Francisco, where he sold papers in the then predominantly Black communities of Fillmore and Hunter's Point.



Huey, Bobby, Eldridge and other BPP members would sell papers at their speaking engagements.

"Free Huey" Heard Around the World

The BPP gained increased national attention and membership following the October 28, 1967, shooting incident involving Huey and two white Oakland police officers, Herbert Heanes and John Frey. The officers, who recognized the license plates of the car in which Huey was a passenger as that of a BPP vehicle, ordered the car to stop. In the bloody altercation that followed, Heanes was wounded and Frey was killed. Huey, himself seriously wounded, was arrested for Frey's killing.

A picture of Huey lying wounded and handcuffed to a hospital gurney appeared on national TV and in newspapers. The BPP, charging that Heanes and Frey had tried to murder Huey, launched an international campaign to get the BPP "minister of defense" out of jail. "Free Huey," a frequent headline in *The Black Panther* at that time, became the demand of blacks, whites and Third World progressive and radical groups around the world. As a result, hundreds of urban black youth across America joined the party.

On September 8, 1968, Huey was convicted of manslaughter in Frey's death. Three weeks later, he was sentenced to two to fifteen years in prison and was imprisoned until his release on August 5, 1970, after his conviction was overturned.

In 1968, Sam Napier joined the BPP in San Francisco and was the party's dedicated circulation manager until his murder in New York City in April 1971. "Sam had a great desire to distribute the paper. That's what he wanted to do", Emory remembers. Sam traveled all over the country securing distributors for *The Black Panther*. "He would call and tell us where he was and that he had gotten another route."

In the pages of *The Black Panther*, the BPP stated its views in speeches and writings by party leaders on "the correct handling of a revolution". In an article of that name published in the May 4, 1968, issue, Huey wrote:

> "The Vanguard Party must provide leadership for the people. It must teach the correct strategic methods of prolonged resistance through literature and activities.When the people learn that it is no longer advantageous for them to resist by going to the streets in large numbers and when they see the advantage in the activities of guerrilla warfare methods, they will quickly follow this example."

It was also common for the newspaper to print articles written by Cuban President Fidel Castro, Chinese leader Mao Zedong, and the late Mozambican President Samora Machel, as well as speeches and writings of party leaders.

"The paper gave black, poor, and dispossessed people a grassroots point of view on the news that they had never had before", Emory said. That was the greatest contribution of *The Black Panther*.

Thanks to Emory and other artists like Mark Teemer and Matilaba (Joan Lewis), *The Black Panther* published art work that most people had never seen before. The BPP's contributions to popular culture of the era included the verbal and visual depiction of police as "pigs". The pig, because it is commonly thought of as a dirty animal, was chosen by the BPP as a symbol of police brutality in the black community. Many people bought the newspaper just to see Emory's latest cartoons of pigs dressed in police uniforms, which could be found in almost every issue between 1968 and 1970.

In its early years, the paper printed the names of BPP national and local leaders, as well as addresses of recognized chapters and branches. While this practice helped people who needed assistance to find Panthers in their local communities, it also, tragically, helped the FBI and police to infiltrate the party with agents provocateurs — the life blood of Hoover's COINTELPRO.

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U.S. Veterans

Continued from page 15

called depleted uranium (DU) penetrators — fired from coalition tanks, artillery and attack planes during the six-week war. Another doctor who recently returned from that country said, "Iraqi children are playing with these shells as toys, unaware of their dangerous effects."

According to a confidential report last year by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (AEA), coalition forces bombarded Iraq with at least 40 tons of depleted uranium during the Gulf War. Iraqi public health officials now fear the shells may already have contaminated the soil and drinking water, exposing the population to the dangers of uranium radioactivity for generations to come.

Indeed, the AEA report calls the presence of depleted uranium in Iraq — and Kuwait — a "significant problem" and indicates there is potentially enough of the material in both countries to cause "tens of thousands of deaths."

Gulf War Mystery Illness and DU

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said tank crews firing DU penetrators could expect to receive radiation equivalent to one chest X-ray every 20 to 30 hours. However, DU has now become the leading candidate as the cause of the mysterious Gulf War illnesses. Hearings in front of the House Veterans Affairs oversight and investigations subcommittee on June 9 featured testimony about the VA's denial of care to Gulf War veterans who are afflicted with the mystery illness. Media coverage of the hearings, including a piece on ABC's Nightline, highlighted DU as a likely cause of the illnesses. "Any radiation exposure increases the risk of cancer," Hoskins said in a report distributed by the Malaysia-based *Third World Network*.

This risk becomes much higher once the projectile has been fired and lies broken and oxidizing in the open air. Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and soldiers from the Desert Storm Coalition were all potentially exposed to oxidized DU. Airborne uranium particles enter the body and lodge in bones and major organs, from where they launch their assault on the body's cells.

Additionally, DU may be causing irreparable environmental damage in the U.S., especially around the Honeywell Corporations test ranges.

Other Problems Facing Persian Gulf Era Vets

Although it is important to focus on the growing scandal of the mystery illness it is also crucial to recognize that Persian Gulf vets are not immune from other major problems facing veterans from other wars, including: suicide, homelessness, unemployment and lack of economic opportunities, imprisonment, and post-traumatic stress.

Government Neglect of the Post-war Vet

Some of the lowlights including the denial of the existence and impact of post-traumatic stress (called shell-shock in WWI and Battle Fatigue in WWII) among veterans from every war; General MacArthur's attack on the World War I bonus marchers; the Department of Energy's deliberate exposure of 250,000 veterans to radiation from Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb tests in the 1940s and 1950s and the ensuing cover-up; the denial of the existence of Korean War vets, and the exposure and then corporate (Dow Chemical) and governmental cover-up of the Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other chemical agents.

Proud History of Veteran Resistance

Veterans, at least since the Civil War, have consistently protested the lack of care they receive after their battlefield "usefulness" has been squeezed dry. The depression era Bonus Marchers, who camped out on the mall in Washington D.C., are perhaps the best known. In the spring of 1971, hundreds of veterans working with the anti-war movement camped on the mall again, this time to protest the war against Vietnam. In late April, many hurled their military medals at the Capitol in a profound act of protest and defiance.

Despite the widely promoted myth that peace and progressive movements in the U.S. mistreat veterans, it is the U.S. government who consistently spits in the face of veterans through the crimes outlined above. In contrast, the peace and other progressive movements, at least since the late 1960s, have reached out to both soldiers and veterans as potential allies.

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NAFTA

Continued from page 3

go in on the Mexican side will go for government support of business while those who receive jobs will, it is hoped, continue to purchase U.S. imports. This is the theory of a new economic zone.

This way U.S. corporations would have cash available for job creation at prices higher than minimum wage in the non-production end. But with the nation in the throes of inflation, there is no guarantee that speculators would see the buys available there and spread the sales through North America under an economic theory President Eisenhower had sponsored called the "trickle-down" theory. You pour cash into the top, the theory says, and workers share the benefits through new jobs and higher wages.

Eisenhower's trickle-down system was applied where manufacturers who were losing money could apply for government aid which was funnelled in at the top, the theory being that when they produced for trade the money would trickle down to the workers they hired. But sales were off, the market wasn't buying, and the workers got no benefit.

The truth about NAFTA is that 70 percent of what currently exists is not enough to produce a boom. So what the federal government is hoping and praying for are the same things they've hoped and prayed for since Eisenhower, that once this boom in speculation begins, once the stock market reflects several companies that have made a one-eighth of 1 percent gain on the import-export system, that speculators will begin to buy either related items or items that seem to them to be about to enter the world of fair trade again, and with the boom coming in at the top, a tax on capital gains could be applied and investors could still remain at the top. "That won't happen, either," said Mr. Bell, "since there is no voting bloc with incentive to force the money down to the level of the U.S. consumer, government policy will keep the money at the top."

How will this affect minority businesses and small businesses? It eventually removes entire communities, providing no consumer base, no one to buy, no one to sell to. Under NAFTA a new construction is reached because it goes to Mexico where forms of businesses put together directly like an enterprise zone will exist, and workers will get no medical plan and certainly no addition to their income.

The U.S. enterprise zone is built on the same source of profit — reduced labor costs. Take a run-down area of town where everyone is unemployed and declare it an enterprise zone. Offer companies tax breaks to move in there, and exceptions to environment and health and safety regulations, or at least, a situation where the unions have been busted by removing the jobs; and a body of workers exists who are making nothing, which means *any* wage is a move up. The company saves by firing its workers where they are, moving to the zone, hiring cheaper labor in the enterprise zone, and pocketing the difference. Not one enterprise zone has worked since they were first begun in the early 1980s.

New Jersey, for example, not only has lost worker income but has lost jobs after ten years of zone experience. Small businesses, especially, cannot afford the capital base to reorganize and compete with the larger corporations. As minimum wages go from $4.50 to $0.58, low-wage workers become part of the slave wage in the face of what already exists in this country — where one child in five goes to bed hungry, 66 percent of the low-income population suffers untreated illness, not one in ten will be able to change their condition on either side of the border and will find themselves total victims of poverty.

It's that simple, it's that devastating and it does not work.

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Gambling

Continued from page 9

Once in, however, the law has no provision for getting rid of a gambling facility, no matter how unwelcome or unwholesome.

Major Industries on the Defensive

At least seven major industries in this town of less than 25,000 have announced plans to relocate or have initiated legal action related in some way to the surge in gambling activity.

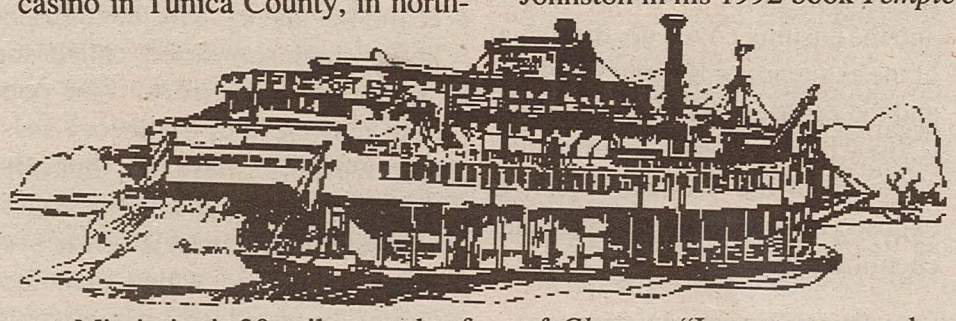
Letourneau-Marathon Marine Construction Works has closed its Vicksburg facility. Ergon Corporation has filed a lawsuit against Isle of Capri for encroachment on its properties. The Kansas City Central Railway, the city's only railroad has announced that it may shut down its operation at Vicksburg. Bunge Corporation, the German grain trader, has offered to sell its grain elevator and storage facility and move upriver. Anderson-Tully Lumber Company, one of the south's largest sawmills, has also given hints that it might move away.

Harrah's became entangled in an embarrassing lawsuit with a small dry goods retailer, Surplus City, Inc., as a result of its formal contract with the City of Vicksburg. City officials had initially promised Harrah's that they would obtain the smaller company's property through eminent domain. The owner, however, sued, declaring that the city had no compelling need for the property and was guilty of conspiring with Harrah's to illegally seize his riverfront property.

Surplus City won its lawsuit in October. The city has appealed the ruling. Meanwhile, Harrah's decided to simply cut back on its development plans and to exclude the smaller property.

It is evident that Harrah's will soon become the dominating presence on the Mississippi. It is a subsidiary of Memphis-based Promus, Inc., which also owns the Atlantic City and Nevada casinos.

Only days after its Vicksburg opening, Harrah's was given state approval to open another riverboat casino in Tunica County, in northern Mississippi, 30 miles south of Memphis. Scheduled to open November 29, this facility reportedly will be second only to Harrah's Atlantic City operation.



Earlier in the year in New Orleans, Harrah's won out in a heated battle with Caesar's World for what is projected to be the world's largest casino. Louisiana state officials will allow only one land-based casino in New Orleans. And though Harrah's was forced to share ownership with two other groups, the New Orleans casino will probably be the most precious jewel in Harrah's crown.

In addition to its nine other gambling halls in Nevada and Atlantic City, Harrah's also has developed another riverboat casino at St.Joseph, Missouri.

In some parts of Vicksburg, an aura of pathos has clouded the existence of a number of small businessmen, especially black bar owners. The city passed an ordinance last year that forced many neighborhood clubs to close at 10 pm.

For years, many of these bars ran gambling operations in their back rooms, with the full knowledge and collusion of local police.

Some of these bar owners now complain that the boats have driven them out of business. Their customers, they say, have opted to use their few disposable dollars for the free-drinks and the slot machines at Harrah's or the Isle of Capri, machines that require anywhere from 25 cents to 1.00 dollar.

It is much too soon to determine what long-lasting effects the gambling enterprises will have in such small towns as Vicksburg. But the sight of young children skateboarding and bicycling or just hanging out near the boats, thoroughly caught up in the glitzy adult world of high stakes gambling, is not a very pleasant sight.

Gambling Cannot Build America

"Gambling cannot build America," said critic David Johnston in his 1992 book *Temples of Chance*. "Iowa taxpayers have already learned about the folly of relying on floating casinos for economic revival."

When Iowa's gaming regulators sought to control the casinos for the public's sake, Johnston pointed out, the boats just pulled up anchor and floated down to unregulated Mississippi. Now, towns like Bettendorf, Davenport and Fort Madison are stuck with millions of dollars of indebtedness used for improvements to accommodate the casinos. "These gambling towns," Johnston said, "have once again played host to Professor Harold Hill, the fictional Music Man who duped Iowans out of their money."

Complaints and suspicions are rife in Mississippi that the "good ole boys" will make sure that the law doesn't interfere with a potential good thing for themselves and the gamblers. Still, one former insider has bemoaned the current predicament of the unsuspecting people of the small towns and counties where the gamblers tend to locate.

"There is still somewhat of a euphoria about all of this," said former State Senator William B. Alexander in a guest editorial in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger. "People in the counties where the casinos are located think that the counties and

Continued on page 21

U.S. Veterans

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Today, national groups including Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace (which has more than 70 chapters nationwide), and the Veterans Education Project; and local groups including Black Veterans for Social Justice in New Jersey, the Midwest Committee for Military Counseling in Chicago, and the Veterans Speakers Alliance and Swords to Ploughshares in the San Francisco Bay Area, continue a tradition of reaching out to veterans while teaching young people about the horrors and the crimes of war.

Twenty-five years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. warned that the bombs we dropped on Vietnam also explode here at home. Agent Orange is still ravaging the health of countless Southeast Asians and U.S. Vietnam War-era veterans. Untested, experimental drugs and DU could easily become the Agent Orange of the 90's. When enough of us heed King's warning and succeed in dismantling what King termed the triple evils of "militarism, materialism, and racism" (today we would add sexism, homophobia, ableism, etc.), we will produce a generation which won't have any veterans, because it won't have trained any warriors. In the meantime, veterans and non-veterans are working together trying to create that day.

For more information on how to contact any of the veterans groups mentioned above and/or how to counter the accelerating military invasion of our schools, please contact the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors at 415-474-3002.

(Some of the information on depleted uranium is drawn from the Inter Press Service, all rights reserved.)

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Williams

Continued from page 1

Neither of the two police officers now serving 30 months in Pleasanton Federal Penitentiary for beating black motorist Rodney King has indicated any regrets for their actions, caught on the now-infamous videotape. During the sentencing of Officer Koon and Officer Powell, Judge John Davies went to great lengths to describe how as many as 45 of the baton blows were "justified" and, in summation to state that Rodney King had actually brought his punishment upon himself by resisting. Judge Davies made no comment that it was intolerable to attack or maim King because of his race.

The story has now come full circle. Judge Davies negated an opportunity by the federal prosecutors to prove racial animus. After setting aside the stipples of *U.S. v. Classic*, the 1941 U.S. Supreme Court case that interpreted the Civil Rights Law criminal provisions to require no showing of racial animus, he reversed himself, using the argument prepared by legal scholars that the manner in which police officers patrol minority communities imposes a pattern of institutional racism. Instead, the prosecution was forced to carry its case within the very confines of proving civil rights violations. A bitter victory.

Judge Ouderkirk openly encouraged the introduction of race in the proceedings and used race as justification for delivering the maximum sentence to Mr. Williams.

Dual System of Justice

The message is clear to the poor and people of color: the systemic racialism which finds three Rodney King-type beatings each day in every major city across this land will proceed unchanged. The message is clear; a dual system of justice exists throughout this country, one for those with the means to buy any amount of justice they can afford, and a separate, much harsher system for those who can't.

The only real solution is to join with others in a demand for a broad indictment on the questions of collusion between departments and branches of government, of practices of the police in how they target people for arrest, and of the personnel involved in the judicial and non-judicial determinations of cases which secure unjust and unfair verdicts.

When Justice

Continued from page 4

casion for interstate car theft, and the other for impersonating a federal officer (e.g., he had manufactured and used phony FBI identification). Apparently, in exchange for a monthly stipend and the dropping of these charges, O'Neal agreed to infiltrate the Chicago Black Panther Party as a counterintelligence operative ."O'Neal joined the Black Panther Party. He rose to position of Chief Of Security and even served as Fred's bodyguard.

Under Fred Hampton's leadership, the Black Panther Party Chapter established in Chicago developed into a stable and strong organization. At the Better Boys Foundation the Black Panther Party opened the Breakfast for the Children Program. The program was expanded and opened at other locations throughout Chicago. Speaking at colleges and schools or on the

"...We're not gonna fight fire with fire, we're gonna fight fire with water. We're gonna fight racism with solidarity."

streets of Chicago, Fred Hampton organized the people and attempted to focus their efforts into concrete programs that would benefit them and the communities that they lived in. "One of the talents which seems to have bothered the Bureau most about Hampton was his undeniable effectiveness as an organizer..."

One effort to organize the African-American community of Chicago that drew the attention of the FBI was Fred Hampton's attempt to develop an alliance between the black students at the universities and black gangs that dominated the streets. "By December 1968, O'Neal was reporting (accurately) that the Chairman was on the verge of negotiating a merger between the Black Panther Party and a sprawling South Side street gang, several thousand members strong, known as the Blackstone Rangers (at the time in the process of changing its title to the "Black P. Stone Nation"). As it was obvious that Hampton's agenda was to bring about politicization of the Rangers, their constructive engagement in community work...a major COINTELPRO operation was quickly implemented to head things off. Special Agent in Charge Johnson secured approval from Hoover to prepare and mail an anonymous letter to Jeff Fort, head of the Rangers, which read:

Brother Jeff:

I've spent sometime with some Panther friends on the west side lately and I know what's going on. The brother that runs the Panthers blames you for blocking their thing and there's supposed to be a hit out on you. I'm not a Panther, or a Ranger, just black. From what I see these Panthers are out for themselves not black people. I think you ought to know what they're up to, I know what I'd do if I was you. You might hear from me again.

(signed) A black brother you don't know.

Predictably enough, relations between the Black Panther Party and Rangers degenerated into antagonism. Faced with a chance of the politicization of the gangs and an alliance between Jeff Fort of the Rangers and Hampton and the Black Panther Party, the FBI did whatever it could to stop such an alliance from developing. By sending a letter to Fort informing him that the Panthers have a "hit out on you" and signed "a black brother you don't know" the FBI hoped that Fort would take retaliatory action against the Black Panther Party. This is clear proof of FBI attempts to provoke gang warfare on the streets of America in its attempt to stop the Blackstone Rangers alliance with the Black Panther Party.

But Fred Hampton and the Chicago Chapter of the Black Panther Party would go on to develop other alliances in their efforts to develop broad-based coalitions. The Black Panther Party in Chicago aligned themselves with the Puerto Rican group, the Young Lords, who modeled themselves after the Black Panther Party, as well as the Patriot Party from the Appalachian community of Chicago. It was the inclusion of all people that set the Black Panther Party apart as the vanguard in the struggle for justice and human rights.

In Fred Hampton's words "We may be in the minority, but this minority is gonna keep on shouting loud and clear: We're not gonna fight fire with fire, we're gonna fight fire with water. We're gonna fight racism with solidarity."

Gambling

Continued from page 20

the state are making big money out of the casinos. During the first year of the operation, their total income was $500 million. Of this, the state and the counties got only $50 million, and the other $450 million was shipped out of state to Las Vegas and Atlantic City."

Despite the complaints of threatened business owners and individual homeowners about the potential for corruption and scandal, the gambling frenzy has shown few signs of slowing down. For every "splash" casino that draws a fine for illegal activities, five new casinos announce an opening a few months ahead. Whatever the long-term outcome, the gamblers continue to risk their money against the odds. Some win. More lose. But gamble they do, around the clock.

The definition of gambling is that it is a game, a game of chance.

Do we want to base our future and the future of our children on a game? Do we want to leave our future to chance?

Games have their place. Which is not the *foundation* of sound economic and social growth.

The history of economies built off gambling and tourism is not an encouraging one. One need only look at nations and locations that function under this rubric, e.g., Cuba in the early 1950s, and Jamaica, Atlantic City, N.J., etc., today. Their per capita incomes are the lowest in the world, and their crime rates are the highest.

Gambling's promise to the nation, states and cities are the same as its promise to the individual — "a quick buck," "something for nothing" and, as with the individual, there are *always* more losers than winners.

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CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten Point Program which was written in 1966 by the Black Panther Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten Point Program outlined the goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working communities of the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is Reactionary Intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (that of the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation).

CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party 10-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM. WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

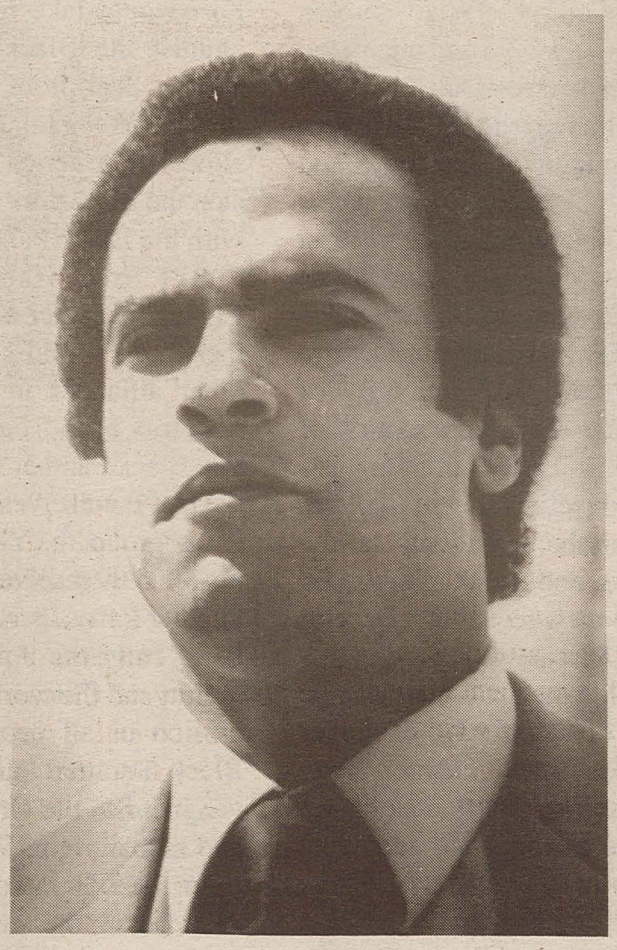
6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about because of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it's our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts that exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U.S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions; because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U.S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons are brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, during human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands that have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

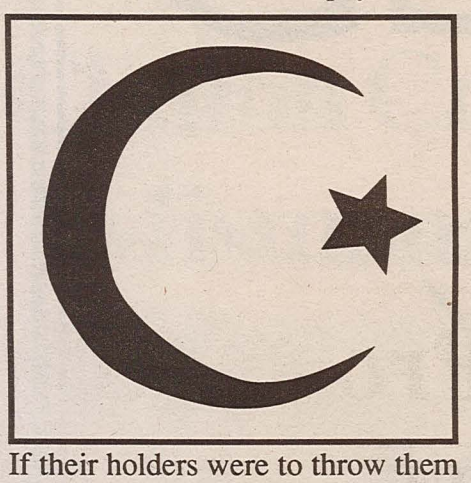


Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

Islam & Blood

Continued from page 16

with the understanding that they would be kept out of circulation. If placed in circulation they would constitute a claim against U.S. assets and gold reserves as part of the international balance of payments.



If their holders were to throw them into circulation, the value of the U.S. dollar would plummet.

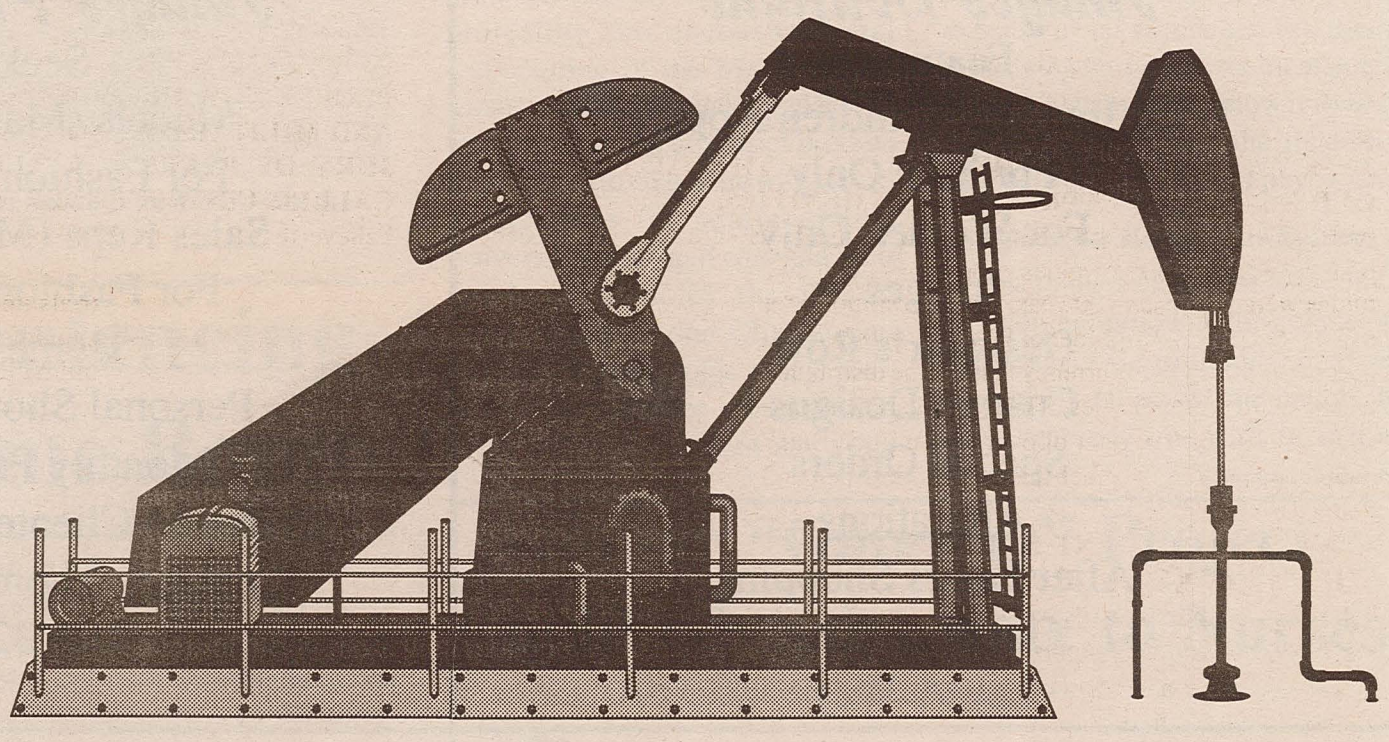
President Bush smashed the petrodollar as a result of the Gulf War. He smashed the eurodollar in cooperation with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who insisted that the European Economic Community admit the agrarian nations — Spain, Portugal, Greece and the Scandinavian countries — into the EEC. The agrarian countries then called on the EEC to obtain loans to buy U.S. grain to keep it off the market, thereby returning the eurodollars to the U.S. The disappearance of the petrodollar and eurodollar bolstered U.S. gold reserves and returned control of the exchange rate of the dollar to the U.S.

The specter of actual and potential nationalization of strategic assets vital to the economies and currencies of advanced industrial nations has represented an ongoing major threat to global fascism throughout the post-World War II era. These assets include: oil, minerals, gems, timber, coal, cocoa and other natural resources and agricultural products, as well as new consumer markets, cheap labor markets, military bases and access to strategic commercial infrastructures.

The stability of the economies and currencies of Germany and Japan in specific, as well as the U.S., Europe and the advanced industrial nations in general, is directly linked to their need to maintain cheap access to resources in Africa, the Middle East and other volatile regions of the world. Germany and Japan as economic leaders among the advanced industrial ruling class nations have relatively few natural strategic resources and depend heavily on African and Middle Eastern imports to sustain their military-industrial complexes.

Germany's reserves of petroleum and natural gas are relatively small. She has some reserves of tin, copper and zinc, and limited amounts of natural gas and petroleum; but overall, the country must import most energy and minerals. All of Japan's requirements of bauxite, crude petroleum and iron ore, and most of its copper ore and coking coal needs have to be met by imports. Almost two-thirds of Japan's electricity is generated from imported fuels. Lack of access to adequate amounts or significantly prolonged increases in their cost would make it extremely difficult for Germany and Japan to meet their energy and raw material needs.

The resulting increase in production costs, associated with increased scarcity and/or expense of imported energy, would eventually have to be offset by increased prices for German and Japanese exports and cuts in the wages and benefits of their working classes. The increased costs for imported strategic materials to the German and Japanese ruling classes, especially if combined with a decline in exports due to their increased prices, would significantly affect their international balance of payments. It is the international balance of payment that determines the exchange rates and international value of German marks, Japanese yen and other national currencies in global currency markets. Stocks, futures, commodities, currency, financial and other exchange, arbitrage, program trading and investment markets observing this process would become increasingly unstable, foreshadowing economic depression and sociopolitical destabilization. The words of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1969 make it clear, for example, that global fascism's U.S.-led foreign economic, political, social and military policy is driven by this dynamic.



We were concerned about a continent politically embittered and economically estranged from the West; and we saw ahead a process of radicalization which would place severe strains on our allies in Europe and Japan....

The interdependence of America and its allies with Africa is increasingly obvious. Africa is a continent of vast resources. We depend on Africa for many key products: cobalt, chrome, oil, cocoa, manganese, platinum, diamonds, aluminum and others....The reliance of Europe and Japan on Africa for key raw materials is even greater than ours. (Kissinger: National Security Memorandum 39 of 1969).

The U.S.-led Gulf War and the occupation of Somalia must be understood within the context of the use of military force as prerequisite to establishing regional economic and political control over regions — such as Southern and Northern Africa, the Middle East, and Central and Southeast Asia — which have an abundance of the strategic natural resources that the economic, financial, industrial, political and social stability of the advanced industrial ruling class nations are almost totally dependent upon.

Somalia and Desert Storm have now almost diabolically presented the defense of "human rights" by the advanced industrial nations as justification for military invasion of Somalia and the Middle East, establishing a regional overt military presence there which had been lost during the post-World War II/Vietnam War era. Global fascism's U.S.-led troops are strategically positioned under UN auspices for military operations in virtually all parts of Africa, the Middle East and the world as guardians of the so-called New World Order.

The fact that elements of the Jewish, Arab, old Ottoman Turkish empire, World War I Central Powers, World War II Axis, primitive Nazi and other *de jure* fascist and allied powers have mutually agreed to elevate their common necessity to unite into a strategic alliance to continue exploitation of the Middle Eastern, African, Asian and their own working classes over former competing economic interests (often disguised as ethnocentric nationalist and/or racialist) and theocentric (religious) disputes, shows that anti-working classism lies at the heart of their collective policies.

If you ask yourself what economic advancements — such as wages and benefits — will the Arab, Israeli, Palestinian, European, African, Asian, North American or other working classes reap from Desert Storm, Somalia, the Balkans or disintegration of the Soviet Union, you will begin to see the foolishness of the working people of the world supporting racially, ethnically, nationally or religiously based wars of international non-working class or labor-based origin.

One lesson to draw is that wars, struggles, movements and organizational formulations based on naked nationalist, ethnocentric racialism or religious theocentrism tend to serve national socialism (for which Nazi is an abbreviation), because they overlook the most important aspect of the struggle between those of every nation, race and religion who are wealthy, and the poor and those becoming poorer. The one group must continually exploit the other in order to retain their economic power and position; and the other group must continually fight for their own historic self-interest in opposing them if they are ever to be free.

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